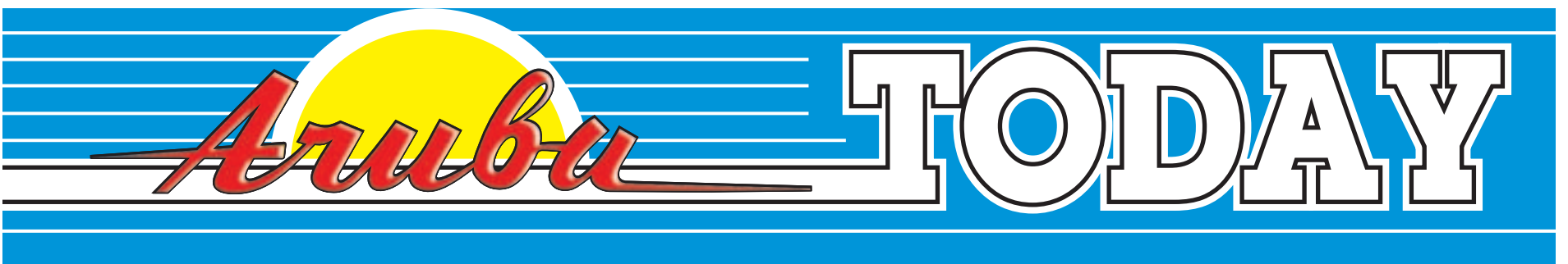




NBA PLAYOFF PREVIEW AND PREDICTIONS: NEW CONTENDERS EMERGE

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On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Saturday, April 18, 2015



PRIMARY COLORS

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry speaks to attendees of the first #FITN Republican Leadership Summit in Nashua, N.H., April 17, 2015. The two-day gathering offers a chance for one of the 19 prospects expected to attend to break out of the pack in a state where there is no clear favorite candidate.

(Ian Thomas Jansen-Lonnquist/The New York Times)

GOP Presidential Hopefuls Swarm New Hampshire

JONATHAN MARTIN
© 2015 New York Times

With every major Republican presidential hopeful descending on New Hampshire this weekend for the state's first candidate

forum, attention will turn for the moment from Hillary Rodham Clinton's entry into the campaign to the fluid Republican race.

Few of New Hampshire's influential Republican activ-

ists will commit to a candidate based solely on what they see at the two-day gathering in Nashua. But the audition there offers a chance for one of the 19 prospects expected to at-

tend to break out of the pack in a state where there is no clear favorite.

As Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin demonstrated earlier this year at a similar gathering in Iowa, a strong

performance at one of the so-called cattle calls for candidates can be enough to vault a candidate into the first tier.

Continued on Page 4

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Obama, Renzi pledge to focus on threats from Libya

DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama pledged Friday to work more intensely with Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi on threats coming from in-

ranean, the prime minister and I agreed to work together even more intensively to encourage cooperation on threats coming from Libya, including the growing ISIL presence there, as well as additional coordination

had thrown 12 Christians overboard during a recent crossing from Libya. An aid group said another 41 were believed to have drowned in a separate incident. The tragedies followed earlier reports of 400 people pre-

With Italy mired in a recession, Renzi also sought and received Obama's backing for his economic program, though it has yet to significantly improve the country's fiscal outlook.

"I have been very impressed with the energy and the vision and the reforms that he is pursuing to unleash the potential of the Italian people and the Italian economy," Obama said. "His willingness to challenge

the status quo and to look to the future has made him a leading voice in Europe. And we're already seeing progress being made with respect to Italy."

Obama said he looked forward to hearing Renzi's assessment of the "ambitious economic reforms that he's pursuing to make Italy more competitive and to reinvigorate the Italian economy as a source of growth in Europe." □



President Barack Obama meets with Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Friday, April 17, 2015. The leaders are expected to discuss Europe's economy, a pending trade pact between the U.S. and Europe, climate change and energy security. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

stability in Libya that have led to an influx of migrants across the Mediterranean. Obama and Renzi told journalists after a White House meeting that they discussed economic and security concerns, including Ukraine and Islamic State militants. Obama said they also spent a significant amount of time discussing their shared concern over Libya. "Given Italy's leadership role across the Mediter-

with other partners in how we can stabilize what has become a very deadly and difficult situation," Obama said, using an acronym for Islamic State militants. Italy is struggling to cope with an influx of migrants who are risking their lives to flee instability in Libya and other parts of North Africa and the Middle East by crossing the sea. Italian police reported this week that Muslim migrants

sumed dead in the sinking of a ship near the Libyan coast. Renzi said he appreciates the assistance from the United States and he and Obama were "fully on the same page." "In the next few weeks, we will see that we will reach the fruits of this commitment," Renzi said. He said it's not just a security matter. "It has to do with the justice and the dignity of mankind."

Obama calls delay of his AG nominee 'crazy'

CONNIE CASS

JIM KUHNHENN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama on Friday said it was "crazy" and "embarrassing" the way the Republican-led Senate has held up confirmation of his attorney general nominee, Loretta Lynch. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he was "hopeful" that the obstacle to bringing Lynch to the Senate floor would be addressed next week, clearing the way for her confirmation vote. But an aide to Minority Leader Harry Reid said no deal was yet in hand and

echoed Obama's call for Republicans to bring her to a vote without condition. "What are we doing here?" Obama said. "I have to say there are times when the dysfunction in the Senate just goes too far. This is an example of it. It's gone too far. Enough. Enough. "Call Loretta Lynch for a vote," he said emphatically. "Get her confirmed." Lynch is the U.S. attorney for New York's Eastern District and would succeed Attorney General Eric Holder if confirmed. She would become the first black woman to serve as the nation's top law officer. Dozens of Senate Republi-

cans have opposed her for various reasons, chiefly her support of Obama's immigration policies. But her vote has been put off because McConnell has first wanted a Senate vote on a bipartisan sexual trafficking bill that has been held up over a dispute about abortion. McConnell on Wednesday said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, has adjusted the language to mirror that contained in bipartisan Medicare legislation that the Senate approved Tuesday. "This is a solution in search of a problem," McConnell said in an interview Friday. □

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GOP Presidential Hopefuls Swarm New Hampshire



New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, R-N.J. speaks at a Republican Leadership Summit, Friday, April 17, 2015, in Nashua, N.H.

(AP Photo/Jim Cole)

Continued from front

But with less than 10 months until votes are cast in the Granite State, some of the candidates are feeling more urgency than others to stand out during their allotted 30 minutes at the New Hampshire Republican State Committee's "First in the Nation" forum. Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey, who has signaled that he intends to stake his hopes on success in New Hampshire, will be among the most closely watched attendees. Having proposed a sweeping overhaul of Social Security and Medicare this week, Christie is trying to position himself as the sort of unvarnished truth-teller that New Hampshire's exacting voters have historically warmed to. His proposal is also an attempt to identify himself with a major policy issue after being known mostly for his brash persona. But many Republican primary voters have indicated that they will not consider supporting Christie, who has not formally announced his candidacy, and the Nashua forum, along with other events in New Hampshire, could show whether that sentiment is reversible. A compelling performance by Christie could set off talk of a comeback, or at least indicate that he has an opening.

For the three first-term senators in the race - Ted Cruz of Texas, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Marco Rubio of Florida, each of whom formally began his campaign in the past month - the gathering provides a chance to build on the momentum they have generated so far. A well-received showing could

cement them as front-rank candidates, earning them a greater share of news media attention and, quite possibly, a lift in the polls and with fundraising. Cruz, whose campaign sent a memo from his pollster Thursday noting his growing support from voters in early primary surveys, will use the forum to make the case that he is the strongest candidate among those vying for support from the party's most conservative activists. Paul has a base of support among New Hampshire's libertarian-leaning activists, and he is likely to make a full-throated appeal to such voters while also noting his early strength in polling against Clinton, who formally announced on Sunday that she would seek the Democratic nomination.

But of the three, Rubio may have the most riding on his first visit to New Hampshire as a declared candidate. Thanks to his profile as a senator and his oratorical skills, Rubio has shown considerable promise but has generated little support in early surveys, and it is unclear which of the early primary states will offer him his best chance for victory. If Rubio can do in Nashua what Walker did in Iowa earlier this year, it could shake up the Republican contest.

But Rubio is not the only candidate looking for an early state in which he can secure a victory.

Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor, is counting on a strong showing in New Hampshire because of the more centrist orientation of its primary electorate: There are fewer evangelical Republicans there than in other early-voting states. □

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Oklahoma volunteer deputy disputes claim he lacked training

TULSA, Oklahoma (AP) — A 73-year-old Oklahoma volunteer deputy charged in the fatal shooting of a suspect in Tulsa went on national television Friday to counter criticisms of his qualifications.

Speaking publicly for the first time since the April 2 shooting, Robert Bates told NBC's "Today" show that characterizations of himself as a wealthy donor who paid to join the force are "unbelievably unfair."

The Tulsa County Sheriff's Office volunteer also disputed anonymously sourced comments in the Tulsa World newspaper that sheriff's office supervisors were ordered to falsify his training records.

Bates previously said he received active shooter training from Arizona's Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, but a spokeswoman said Thursday the office has no record of that.

Bates said Friday that he is certified to be a reserve deputy.

"I have it in writing," Bates said.

Video released by the sheriff's office shows Eric Harris running and deputies re-

straining him after an undercover gun deal. Bates said he shot the 44-year-old suspect after confusing his stun gun and handgun. "You must believe me, it can happen to anyone," Bates said.

Bates said the shooting was accidental and apologized to Harris' family.

"I rate this as number one on my list of things in my life that I regret," he said.

The Tulsa district attorney has charged Bates with second-degree manslaughter.

It was the latest fatal shooting by a police officer to draw widespread attention after months of investigations and protests of other deaths in Ferguson, Missouri, New York City, South Carolina and elsewhere.

Many of the cases have led to debate about the treatment of black men and boys by law enforcement agencies in the United States.

Bates is white and Harris, 55, was black. However, Andre Harris, the victim's brother, has said he does not believe the shooting was racially motivated. □



Robert Bates, right, arrives at the Tulsa County Jail with his attorney, Clark Brewster, in Tulsa, Okla. Bates went on national television Friday to counter criticisms of his qualifications.

(Matt Barnard/Tulsa World via AP)

Days after killing, threats close down North Carolina university

GOLDSBORO, North Carolina (AP) — A North Carolina community college is closing for the weekend after receiving threatening telephone calls that followed a shooting death involving a self-avowed neo-Nazi.

Wayne Community College officials closed the Goldsboro campus Friday morning and canceled weekend classes and activities.

College President Kay Alberson said there wasn't a bomb threat.

She said the college received several threatening phone calls over two days, but law officers traced the caller.

She said that after local officials opted to close a high school operating on the campus, college officials did likewise to lessen confusion. □



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Ohio man pleads not guilty to plotting military base attack

ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS
AP Legal Affairs Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — An Ohio man pleaded not guilty Friday to charges he traveled to Syria and trained alongside terrorists, then returned to the U.S. with plans to attack a military base in Texas or a prison.

Abdirahman Sheik Mohamud, a U.S. citizen originally from Somalia, wanted to "kill three or four American soldiers execution style," according to the indictment. Attacking the prison was part of a back-up plan if that didn't work, the charges said.

Mohamud traveled to Syria and received terrorism training on weapons, combat and tactics, Assistant U.S. Attorney Doug Squires said after a brief court hearing.



Sam Shamansky, defense attorney for accused terrorist Abdirahman Sheik Mohamud, answers questions after Mohamud entered not guilty pleas in federal court to charges of supporting terrorism, supporting a terrorist group and making a false statement involving international terrorism, on Friday, April 17, 2015, in Columbus, Ohio. Mohamud was arrested in Columbus in February on state terrorism and money laundering counts.

(AP Photo/Andrew Welsh-Huggins)

"His intent for the United States was to kill Americans," Squires said. "That included U.S. military, police and anyone in uni-

form."

The indictment also says Mohamud's brother, Abdifatah Aden, fought with Jabhat al-Nusrah, a State

Department-designated terrorist group, until he was killed in battle in Syria in June 2014.

Mohamud, 23, was charged with supporting terrorism, supporting a terrorist group and making a false statement involving international terrorism. Prosecutors said he lied to an Ohio FBI agent by saying he was in Istanbul when authorities say he was in Syria. Mohamud was arrested in Columbus in February on state terrorism and money laundering counts.

Mohamud became a U.S. citizen in February 2014, according to the government. At the hearing, Mohamud was shackled at the ankles, and his wrists were shackled to his waist. He sat quietly, listening intently to the judge. He replied politely but quietly, saying, "Yes, ma'am" as he answered questions.

Mohamud's sister and mother attended the hearing but declined to comment afterward.

Defense attorney Sam Shamansky called the charges serious but said the govern-

ment was only presenting one side so far. He labeled the indictment a "cherry-picked" document as significant for what it didn't say as what it did.

Mohamud has no criminal record, has never been violent and made no intent to flee during the year the government tailed him, Shamansky said. Mohamud went to high school in suburban Columbus, is close to his family, likes to play basketball and has worked in the past, he said. "In many respects, he's just a normal 23-year-old kid. Period," Shamansky said.

Events leading to Mohamud's arrest began around September 2013 when he communicated online with his brother about plans to travel to Syria to fight, the indictment said. They later talked about ways Mohamud could support him financially, according to the government.

Mohamud told his brother of his desire to "join you in the high ranks as a Mujahid," or violent jihadist, according to the indictment.

□

Police: Man kills 2 brothers, mom, woman in U.S. home

PHOENIX (AP) — Phoenix police said Friday that a man who had been in a business dispute with his two brothers shot and killed them, his mother and one of their wives before taking his own life.

The man's wife fled the home with two young children and another woman when the gunfire broke out Thursday afternoon, Sgt. Trent Crump said.

Police aren't yet identifying the four victims or the man who opened fire and later

shot himself. Crump said earlier that the family had origins in Morocco.

The three brothers ran a company that offered cars for hire and a restaurant, Crump said Friday. There had been an ongoing dispute about the business, and one brother opened fire, he said.

"According to witness accounts, yesterday he had made some off-the-wall comments, at the time saying goodbye to people," Crump said. □

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US Financial Front:

Higher gas prices sparked modest inflation in March



A vehicle is refueled at a gas station in New Orleans. Rising gas prices in March led to a slight increase in inflation, a sign that some of the broader economic impact from cheaper oil is fading.

(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Higher-priced gasoline slightly boosted consumer prices in March, a sign that some of the effects of cheaper oil are fading and that inflation may be edging up to healthier levels.

The consumer price index rose 0.2 percent last month, the Labor Department said Friday. Inflation moved at that same pace in February, which ended three straight monthly declines caused largely by falling oil and gas prices.

Inflation has been running below levels associated with a healthy economy, evidence of subpar consumer demand and a strengthening U.S. dollar. Economists see the bump in gas prices as evidence that inflation will begin to rise closer to the Federal Reserve's target rate of 2 percent. And it suggests that consumer prices aren't at risk of sinking into outright deflation, said Paul Ashworth, chief economist at Capital Economics.

Prices at the pump rose 3.9 percent in March, contributing, along with other factors, to a small dose of inflation. Still, gas remains relatively cheap, having fallen roughly 33 percent over the past year to an average price of \$2.41 a gallon, according to AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge.

Primarily because of less expensive gas, consumer prices dipped 0.1 percent in the 12 months that ended in March, meaning that more Americans have been able to conserve their spending.

Outside food and energy, core prices also rose 0.2 percent in March. The cost of clothes, housing, cars, and medical care increased, while food and airfare decreased. Core prices have risen 1.8 percent in the past year.

Several factors apart from gasoline suggest that inflation will likely remain subdued. The stronger dollar has slashed the cost of imported electronics, clothing and other items. The dollar has climbed in value against the euro and yen

because the U.S. economy has achieved stronger growth than much of Europe and Japan have.

At the same time, average hourly wages have risen at an annual rate of just 2 percent, too low to cause a

surge in consumer demand that would enable retailers to raise prices much.

If gas prices hold steady, the annual inflation rate could begin to rise later this year. Economists are monitoring the possibility that in-

flation will reach the Fed's target of 2 percent, a level deemed manageable enough to encourage consumer activity while keeping prices relatively stable and protecting against deflation. □

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Parents of marathon victim say take death penalty off table

BOSTON (AP) — The parents of the youngest victim of the Boston Marathon bombing are urging federal authorities to consider taking the death penalty off the table for the man convicted in the case.

Bill and Denise Richard, whose 8-year-old son, Martin, was one of three people killed by the April 2013 explosions at the marathon's finish line, say in a front-page piece in Friday's Boston Globe that sentencing Dzhokhar Tsarnaev to death "could bring years of appeals and prolong reliving the most painful day of our lives."

"We are in favor of and would support the Department of Justice in taking the death penalty off the table in exchange for the defendant spending the rest of his life in prison without any possibility of release and waiving all of his rights to appeal," they wrote.

The Richards' daughter, Jane, lost a leg in one of the explosions, and they both suffered injuries.

"We understand all too well the heinousness and



Boston Marathon survivor Jane Richard holds the hand of her brother Henry, center, as their family walks down Boylston Street with Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, left, after a ceremony honoring victims and survivors at one of two blast sites near the finish line of the Boston Marathon in Boston.
(AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

brutality of the crimes committed. We were there. We lived it. The defendant murdered our 8-year-old son, maimed our 7-year-old daughter, and stole part of our soul. We know that the government has its reasons for seeking the death penalty, but the continued pursuit of that punishment could bring years of appeals and prolong reliving

the most painful day of our lives," they said.

They wrote that when Tsarnaev fades from the media spotlight and public view they can start "rebuilding our lives and family."

The Richards never mention Tsarnaev by name, simply calling him "the defendant," and stressed that they are speaking only for themselves.

U.S. Attorney for Boston Carmen Ortiz says she is aware of the Richards' view but cannot comment on the specifics.

"But as I have previously assured both Bill and Denise, I care deeply about their views and the views of the other victims and survivors," Ortiz said.

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, a friend of the Richard

family, tells WBZ-AM he respects their point of view.

Jennifer Lemmerman, the sister of Massachusetts Institute of Technology police officer Sean Collier who was killed by Tsarnaev and his older brother days after the explosions, has also spoken out against the death penalty on her Facebook page, in posts that have since been removed.

Relatives of other victims have expressed support of the death penalty.

The penalty phase of Tsarnaev's trial starts Tuesday, the day after this year's marathon.

Robert Blecker, a New York Law School professor and death penalty expert, said it's highly doubtful the statement by the Richards will sway the Justice Department.

"Victims and the survivors play a role — they should have a voice — but the reason they don't get a veto and shouldn't get a veto is because often there are larger interests at stake," said Blecker, who said he supports the death penalty for Tsarnaev. □

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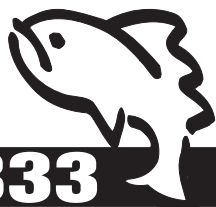


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Oklahoma governor signs new bill that allows nitrogen in executions

KEN MILLER
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Oklahoma became the first U.S. state to approve nitrogen gas for executions under a measure the state's Republican governor signed into law Friday that provides an alternative death penalty method if lethal injections aren't possible, either because of a court ruling or a drug shortage.

Executions are on hold in Oklahoma while the U.S. Supreme Court considers whether the state's current three-drug method of lethal injection is constitutional. Supporters of the new law maintain nitrogen-induced hypoxia is a humane and painless method of execution that requires no medical expertise to perform. There are no reports of nitrogen

gas ever being used to execute humans, and critics say that one concern is that the method is untested. Some states even ban its use to put animals to sleep.

"I support that policy, and I believe capital punishment must be performed effectively and without cruelty," Gov. Mary Fallin said in a statement announcing that she had signed the bill into law. "The bill I signed today gives the state of Oklahoma another death penalty option that meets that standard."

Oklahoma's changes come after a botched execution last year in which Oklahoma was using a new sedative as the first in a three-drug combination. State officials tried to halt the lethal injection after the inmate writhed on the gurney and moaned. He

died 43 minutes after the process began.

States have been scrambling as European pharmaceutical companies have restricted the flow of lethal drugs.

The bill easily passed a Republican-controlled state Legislature.

Supporters of Oklahoma's plan argue that nitrogen-induced hypoxia — or a lack of oxygen in the blood — is a humane execution method. "The process is fast and painless," said Christian, a former Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper who wrote the bill. "It's foolproof."

Opponents say there's no way to know whether the method is painless and effective. "It just hasn't been tried, so we don't know," said Rep. Emily Virgin, a Democrat who opposes the death penalty. □



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Iraqi officials believe Saddam's top deputy killed

QASSIM ZAHRA
VIVIAN SALAMA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — He was the last member of Saddam Hussein's inner circle still on the run, depicted with his distinctive red moustache as the "king of clubs" on the U.S. military's deck of cards of most-wanted Iraqi regime fugitives.

Now, officials say they believe government forces killed Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri near Tikrit, where the former deputy to Saddam was working alongside Islamic State militants. Reports of al-Douri's death came Friday as Iraqi forces tried to push back Islamic State group fighters in Salahuddin province, where Tikrit is located. Government troops took back several towns near Iraq's largest oil refinery at Beiji, officials said.

Farther north, a car bomb exploded next to the U.S. Consulate in the city of Irbil, a rare attack in the capital of the Kurdish autonomous zone that killed three people and wounded five, police said. U.S. officials said no Americans were hurt

and no casualties among consulate personnel or guards.

An Associated Press reporter at the scene said the blast went off outside a cafe next to the building in the Ankawa neighborhood, setting several nearby cars on fire. Shortly afterward, the Islamic State group claimed responsibility, according to the SITE Intelligence Group, which tracks militant websites.

The report of al-Douri's death was not the first time Iraqi officials have claimed to have killed or captured the 72-year-old former aide to Saddam.

According to Raed al-Jabouri, the governor of Salahuddin province, al-Douri was killed by Iraqi troops and Shiite militiamen in an operation in the Talal Hamreen mountains east of Tikrit, Saddam's hometown, which was retaken from the Islamic State group earlier this month.

Troops opened fire at a convoy carrying al-Douri and nine bodyguards, killing all of them, Gen. Haider al-Basri, a senior commander, told state TV.

The government issues



In this Sunday, Dec. 1, 2002 file photo, Iraqi Vice chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri salutes during a ceremony at the Martyrs Monument in Baghdad, Iraq. Salahuddin province Gov. Raed al-Jabouri says soldiers and allied Shiite militiamen killed al-Douri early Friday, April 17, 2015 in an operation east of the city of Tikrit. A graphic photo issued by the government purports to be of al-Douri's corpse, but DNA tests are still pending.

(AP Photo/Jassim Mohammed)

several photos showing a body purported to be al-Douri. The body had a bright red beard, perhaps dyed, and a ginger-colored moustache. Al-Douri was a fair-skinned redhead with a ginger moustache,

making him distinctive among the members of Saddam's inner circle.

Karim al-Nouri, a spokesman for the Popular Mobilization Forces, said the body was brought Friday night to Baghdad for DNA

tests, which should be completed within 48 hours. Col. Pat Ryder, spokesman for U.S. Central Command, said the U.S. had no information to corroborate the reported death of al-Douri. □

Hezbollah blames Saudi Arabia for spread of extremism

BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The leader of Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group launched his harshest criticism yet of Saudi Arabia on Friday, blaming the kingdom for the spread of extremist ideology in the Muslim world and the killing of civilians in Yemen.

Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah told hundreds of supporters at a rally in southern Beirut organized in support of Yemen's Shiite rebels that Saudi-led airstrikes targeting them have not led to vic-

tory.

Since March 26, the Saudi-led coalition has been pounding the rebels known as Houthis and allied fighters loyal to Yemen's ousted President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Nasrallah said that the kingdom will soon realize that "the only choice left" is a ground operation in Yemen — a "ground invasion will be costly and will end with a defeat."

Both the Houthis and Hezbollah are backed by Iran. Nasrallah called on the

Muslim world to pressure the Saudis to end the airstrikes and work for a political solution in Yemen.

However, he said no solution will restore Western-backed President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi who fled the country as his government crumbled. Saudi officials and the international community say Hadi is the legitimate president of Yemen.

The U.N. Security Council this week imposed an arms embargo on Houthi leaders and again demanded that

they withdraw and stop the violence. The council also imposed an arms embargo on Saleh, who now has aligned himself with the Houthis. Nasrallah also lashed out at Saudi Arabia's strict ultraconservative Wahhabi brand of Sunni Islam, which has been adopted as the ideology of militant groups such as al-Qaida, the Islamic State and al-Qaida's branch in Syria known as the Nusra Front. He accused the kingdom of spreading extremist ideology through schools

it funds in Muslim nations. "Who is teaching this ideology in elementary, secondary and high schools and universities?" Nasrallah asked. Nasrallah's Hezbollah has joined the fray in the civil war next door in Syria, fighting on the side of government forces of President Bashar Assad, who hails from the Alawite community, a Shiite offshoot.

"Time has come for Muslims, Arabs and the Muslim world to tell the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: 'Enough,'" said Nasrallah. □

Al-Qaida in Yemen takes massive weapons depot from army

AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Al-Qaida's Yemen branch routed government forces from a large weapons depot in the country's east on Friday, seizing dozens

of Hadramawt — Yemen's largest province where al-Qaida has been consolidating its control. Only the day before, the militants captured a major airport, an oil terminal and the area's main military base.

week, has so far failed to halt the rebels' advance. Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, as the Yemeni affiliate is known, is widely seen as the global network's most dangerous franchise and has been

presence, including Hadramawt, where the militant group has long been implanted despite U.S. drone strikes and Yemeni counterterrorism operations. The coalition says the airstrikes are aimed at the rebels, known as Houthis, not al-Qaida.

On Friday evening, hundreds of al-Qaida supporters and fighters gathered at a theater in Mukalla to celebrate their victories in the Hadramawt region, singing war songs and chanting slogans.

Pro-Hadi forces gained some ground elsewhere in Hadramawt on Friday, with fighters capturing the province's Masila oilfield, the country's largest, commander Ahmed Bammash said over the telephone.

On the other side of the country, Saudi-led coalition airstrikes targeting the rebels intensified, with bombings in Sanaa and also Taiz, the country's second-largest city.

The levels of the bombings were their most intense since the campaign started on March 26, the security officials said.

Thick plumes of smoke rose high above Sanaa as weapons stores in mountains overlooking the city exploded and burned, while local residents continued to flee the violence, said the officials.

In Taiz, the rebels clashed with army units loyal to Hadi, with tanks and heavy machine guns firing throughout the day and airstrikes hitting a military base of the Houthi-allied Republican Guard, the officials said.

Airstrikes also continued in Saada, the Houthis' northern stronghold, and Aden, the southern port city that the rebels have been trying to take for weeks, in cooperation with forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, they added, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

Meanwhile, the United Nations urged the international community to provide \$274 million in aid to help save lives and protect some 7.5 million people affected by Yemen's conflict. □



Smoke rises after a Saudi-led airstrike on Sanaa, Yemen, Friday, April 17, 2015. Since March 26, a Saudi-led coalition has been striking the Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, and allied military units loyal to ousted President Ali Abdullah Saleh. (AP Photo/Hani Mohammed)

of tanks, Katyusha rocket launchers and small arms, security officials said, as airstrikes by a Saudi-led coalition intensified in the capital, Sanaa, and also in Yemen's second-largest city. The seized depot is located in Mukalla, the capital

The gains highlight how al-Qaida has exploited the chaos in Yemen, where Shiite rebels are battling forces loyal to exiled President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi. The Saudi-led air campaign in support of Hadi, now in its fourth

linked to several failed attacks on the U.S. The group claimed responsibility for the attack on a French satirical magazine in Paris earlier this year. However, the Saudi-led air campaign has not targeted areas with an al-Qaida

Ukraine: US troops arrive for training exercises

JIM HEINTZ
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — About 300 US Army paratroopers on Friday arrived in Ukraine for training exercises with national guard units, a move criticized by Moscow and eastern Ukraine's Russia-backed separatist rebels.

The troops, from the Italy-based 173rd Airborne Brigade, are to spend several weeks training a total of about 900 Ukrainian national guardsmen.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich denounced the guardsmen as "ultra-nationalists ... who stained themselves with the blood of women, children and the elderly during their punitive operations."

Although Interior Minister Arsen Avakov had said the guardsman units could include the Azov Battalion, a far-right formation noto-

rious for using an insignia used by many military units in Nazi Germany, U.S. Embassy spokesman James Hallock said Azov fighters would not be among those trained. Though fighting has diminished substantially since a February cease-fire deal was signed in Minsk, Belarus, clashes continue and each side accuses the other of wanting to resume the conflict. Lukashevich said the U.S. troops' presence violates the section of the Minsk agreement that bans foreign "armed formations" from Ukraine. On Friday, the UN Human Rights Commissioner's office said at least 6,116 people have been killed since the fighting broke out a year ago. National guard units, many of which began as volunteer groupings, have been an important part of Ukrainian forces' fighting against the separatists. □



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Germanwings memorial service held at Cologne cathedral

JACK EWING

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COLOGNE, Germany - The leaders of Germany on Friday joined hundreds of mourning relatives in one of the country's most hallowed cathedrals to honor the passengers and crew members who died when a jet smashed into a French mountainside last month, a crash that horrified the world after investigators said the co-pilot had deliberately brought down the plane.

President Joachim Gauck, once a Lutheran pastor in Communist East Germany, and Chancellor Angela Merkel were among the state and national leaders who gathered in the Cologne Cathedral for the two-hour, nationally televised memorial service.

Although the crash of the Germanwings flight on March 24 has been the subject of intense discussion, the memorial service Friday marked the first time in which Germany mourned as a nation.

Gauck articulated many of the emotions that arose not only from the loss of life but also from the revelation in the days after the crash that the co-pilot had almost certainly responsible for it.

"We lack words for this deed," Gauck said, noting that it gave rise to a "dreadfully oppressive burden of feelings."

"There was this unbelievable shock, this incomprehension, the sadness, which for many turned to rage and anger," he said. There have been many memorial services in Germany, Spain and elsewhere since the crash of Germanwings Flight 9525. But the ceremony in Cologne, watched by hundreds of people on large

screens outside, illustrated the extent to which Germany has been affected more than any other.

About half the people on-board the plane were from Germany, as was the co-pilot, Andreas Lubitz. There were 150 candles burning in the cathedral on Friday, one for each person on the plane, including Lubitz.

"We don't know what was going on inside the head of the co-pilot in the decisive second, in the decisive minutes," Gauck said, referring to the time in which Lubitz blocked the captain of the plane from re-entering the cockpit and set a course into the French Alps. But, Gauck noted, "we do know that his family also lost someone they loved on March 24."

The crash has also shaken confidence in Lufthansa, the parent company of Germanwings, after the airline admitted it had known since 2009 that Lubitz had a history of severe depression.

The heads of both Lufthansa and Germanwings were among the 1,400 mourners in the cathedral, most of them relatives of victims, including many from Spain and other countries, or invited dignitaries. Employees of Germanwings watched the service on a screen at a different church, which was closed to outsiders.

The headquarters of Germanwings is less than 10 miles from the cathedral near the Cologne-Bonn airport. Montabaur, the hometown of Lubitz, is about 60 miles to the south of Cologne.

The plane was bound from Barcelona, Spain, to Düsseldorf, and more than a third of the victims were from the surrounding re-



From left: Volker Bouffier, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Norbert Lammert, Daniela Schadt, German President Joachim Gauck and Hannelore Kraft during a memorial service for passengers and crew members who died in the crash of Germanwings Flight 9525, at the Cologne Cathedral in Germany, April 17, 2015. (Oliver Berg/Pool via The New York Times)

gion in western Germany, including 16 high school students and two teachers

from the town of Haltern am See, which is about 60 miles north of Cologne.

The students were returning from an exchange program in Spain. □



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Chile:

Three dead, dozen injured in nightclub incident

EVA VERGARA
Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Three people were killed and a dozen others injured Friday after a large crowd tried to force its way into a nightclub in Chile's capital. Authorities say the incident happened after midnight when a crush of people made a run on the entrance of the Santiago

club Tsunami, where British punk group Doom was playing. Pressure from the crowd, which pushed through the door, caused a "structure" to fall on people inside the club, said Police Gen. Hugo Insulza. It wasn't immediately clear what that structure was. "The situation is complex. There were a lot of people

and a lot of alcohol," said Santiago city manager Claudio Orrego. Several people at the club were detained for questioning. Authorities also said they would interrogate the club's manager and the group that rents out the space to see if there were any code infractions. The dead and injured were men and women between

20 and 30-years-old and seven of the injured were in critical condition, said Dr. Mario Henriquez. One of those killed, 25-year-old Eduardo Angladetti, was an Argentine citizen, according to the Argentine consulate in Santiago. The British group is in Santiago for a music festival on Sunday. □

Colombia:

Santos demanding rebels set deadline for peace

J. GOODMAN
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — President Juan Manuel Santos delivered a sharp rebuke to Colombia's largest rebel group Friday, calling on its leaders to set a deadline to reach a peace deal following this week's slaughter of 11 soldiers while they were sleeping. Santos didn't propose any cutoff date to conclude peace talks taking place the last two years in Cuba between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. But he warned the guerrillas that the country's patience is wearing thin. "Don't be deaf to us Colombians who are clamoring that the time to end the war has come. Time limits to negotiations need to be put in place," he said in remarks at a reception for visiting South Korean President Park Geun-hye. Earlier in the day, Santos attended a memorial for the 11 soldiers, the major-



Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos speaks to the media after a welcoming ceremony for South Korea's President Park Geun-hye at the presidential palace in Bogota, Colombia, Friday, April 17, 2015.
(AP Photo/Fernando Vergara)

ity from poor families, who were killed Tuesday during a midnight FARC attack in

a rural hamlet in southwestern Colombia. The attack came as a

shock to normally battle-hardened Colombians because it occurred after months of steady progress in negotiations that saw the FARC declare a unilateral cease-fire and the government respond with a suspension of air raids on rebel camps. Following the attack, Santos ordered the air strikes to resume. But conservative critics, and some members of the military, want him to go even further. While Santos said he shares Colombians' outrage over the attack, he gave no indication he is considering ending talks, saying he was elected to pursue peace not perpetuate war. The FARC's leadership in Havana is also making an effort to overcome the latest crisis, saying talks should continue at all costs. The group also blames Santos for not committing to a two-sided truce ahead of a peace accord, which it says is the only way to prevent further bloodshed. □

Guatemala:

Ex-dictator Montt's daughter announces her presidential bid

SONIA PEREZ D.
Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — The daughter of Efraim Rios Montt, the Guatemalan former dictator facing charges of genocide for massacres committed during his 1982-83 regime, is running for president of this Central American nation. Zury Rios Sosa, a three-time member of congress, announced Thursday that she would accept the nomination of the Christian conservative Vision with Values party to compete in general elections later this year. "Before God and all of you, I take the responsibility and the decision to return to the political arena, to public politics, to the office of a public servant, to submit myself to the judgment of the people," she said. Rios Sosa married Jerry Weller, who at the time was a Republican U.S. congressman from Illinois, in 2004.

She was 14 years old when her father, an army general, seized power in a coup. The regime he led suspended the constitution and launched a brutal campaign against political dissidents. In 2013, he was convicted of genocide and crimes against humanity for the killings of 1,771 Mayan Indians by soldiers under his command. A court later overturned the ruling. A retrial was supposed to begin in January but has been delayed. Rios Sosa, 47, declined to comment on whether her father's legal case could affect her race. She said women who run for office often face questions from those who say "she's running because she's someone's daughter or wife." "I respect, love and support my father, just as I respect and will support the Guatemalan people," Rios Sosa said. Before announcing her candidacy, Rios Sosa spent several months inviting Guatemalans to send her messages suggesting political changes they wish to see. □

Jamaica:

Teen suspected of being militant stays in custody

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — A Jamaican judge ruled this week that a teenager suspected of hoping to join Islamic extremists in Syria must remain in police custody until next week. Defense lawyer Zara Lewis had filed an application seeking the 16-year-old boy's release from police detention. But the magistrate ordered Thursday that he remain in custody until a Tuesday hearing.

Over the weekend, Suriname police said the Jamaican teen was denied entry after arriving at the South American nation's main airport and planning to get on a flight to the Netherlands. Suriname police said an intelligence agency they did not identify had provided information that the boy apparently intended to travel to Turkey and then cross into Syria to join militants from the Islamic

State group. He was flown back to Jamaica, where he has been in police custody since Saturday. The counterterrorism branch of Jamaica's police force is investigating. Assistant Police Commissioner Devon Watkis has said they will provide details about the investigation as soon as possible. The suspect's relatives in the farming parish of St. Mary have told local me-

dia that the youth is wrongly accused. They claim he was traveling to the Netherlands to join his mother, who resides in England. It's not clear what her immigration status is. U.S. Gen. John Kelly, who heads the U.S. Southern Command, last month identified Jamaica as one of several Caribbean nations where officials believe recruits have departed for Syria. □



Team Canada places 3rd in "Copa Himno y Bandera"



the sponsor Team Splash thanking the teams especially Team Canada for their participation. Canadian team manager Earl Sutherland, he was happy with his choice of ladies to play. He stated "in the 4 years that I've brought a team to play,



By Nathalie Winterdaal
Bon Dia Aruba Sports writer
ORANJESTAD - This past weekend, the female softball team from Canada was on the island to play in the "Copa Himno y Bandera" against two team Aruban and two teams from Curacao. On Friday night they played, but due to a change in schedule, the Team Canada ended up playing a double-header. Their first game was against El Piston of Curacao. Team Canada started the game slow, but once that they got rolling El Piston was in trouble. In the second game, Canada had to play against, the tournament organizers, Splash of Aruba. Being the

tournament is slow-pitch softball Team Canada had to be warned about their pitching speed, Splash was barely able to hit, slower speeds and all, Team Canada walked away the winner. One the next night, Team Canada had to play against the second Aruban team, the Sweet Devils. The Lady Canucks were confident entering the game, but soon found their selves in a battle and eventually lost to the defending champion, Sweet Devils. Sunday morning they played against Team Unidos of Curacao and went on to record their third victory. Although they went through the round-robin



tournament with a 3-1 record, they didn't compete in the title game due to run differential. In the end it



was upstart El Piston of Curacao defeating reigning champions Sweet Devils for the championship.

At the end of game there was ceremony with

this team was the best." Sutherland also added, "From the time they have met, these ladies had a clicked. That is the reason they could play very well together." □



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“NEONSMASH!” at Nikky Beach Club Aruba A Big Success!



ORANJESTAD - Last weekend, the first edition of the “NEONSMASH!” Festival took place at Nikky Beach Club. 12 DJ's have ensured that evening for a spectacular evening with many colors, glow and neon paint made for great entertainment! More than 2500 visitors attended the “NEONSMASH!” Main Event. It is for Aruba the first time that such a large neon paint party was organized. And with great success!

“NEONSMASH!” was invented by Cliff Borger. The first edition in the Caribbean, he organized on Bonaire and has great success then made the crossing with his concept to Aruba. The concept is very popular among young people because of the many sensational moments that take place during the festival. The audience gets plastered

with special neon paint effect when there seems that gives a great glow to blacklight. Combined

with proper house music it gives the audience a huge energy boost. “NEONSMASH!” went successful and peaceful. Despite all of the air conditioning units were carefully checked in advance, it was very hot inside the club. As the number of visitors was higher than expected, it still showed that the number of air conditioners to the large group of people could not handle. But apparently that did not spoil the fun because they were considerably partying until the early hours. The concept of “NEONSMASH!” is growing and is now also spreading outside the Caribbean islands. In June he will start with the prepara-

tions for the USA tour with Miami and New York as first planned. Several clubs have expressed an interest in this concept.

Borger: “I am pleased that the government of Aruba has confidence in us and cooperate with in order to stay open an extra hour.” “NEONSMASH!” will definitely come back to Aruba but will be an outdoor event! There is a larger group of people can be allowed so. All the things that could be better in my eyes, I can then turn into a second edition and improve. “ Together with his team decoration Rave Junkies Aruba he is looking forward to a second “NEONSMASH!” in Aruba. □



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At Arawak Garden:

Mike and Coco from Boston Love Salt & Pepper Aruba!

PALM BEACH - Mike and Coco from Boston, Mass, are having the time of their lives on Aruba. They love the friendly people, the relaxed vibes on the island and the great restaurants.

One of those great restaurants is Salt & Pepper, which they discovered when they walked past the Arawak Garden. The Garden offers nightly live music, night shopping in the kiosks and

several wonderful restaurants as well as the Sopranos Piano Bar. For Coco and Mike it was not difficult to make a

choice when they were presented with the menu: they both chose the red snapper and were not sorry at all. Now all the couple

needs to do is enjoy their vacation a few days more and come back soon, please. At Salt & Pepper they are waiting for you! ☐



Fredericks Family Honored at the Playa Linda Resort



PALM BEACH - Recently Richard and Sharon Fredericks were honored as Distinguished Visitors of the island of Aruba after visiting for more than 13 years consecutive. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name

of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between 10-and-20 years consecutive. Mr. Ricardo Croes representing Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony at the Playa Linda



Resort. Sharon commented that she will never change her vacation island for any other island. The top reasons for returning are they

consider Aruba to be the 'Happy Island,' the great weather, the friendly Aruban hospitality, the white sand beaches and the local

food. In the pictures are Mr. Ricardo Croes from ATA, together with Richard and Sharon, and also Yvette from the Playa Linda Resort. □

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Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



Troy Merritt hits from the cart path off the 15th fairway during the second round of the RBC Heritage golf tournament in Hilton Head Island, S.C., Friday, April 17, 2015. Associated Press

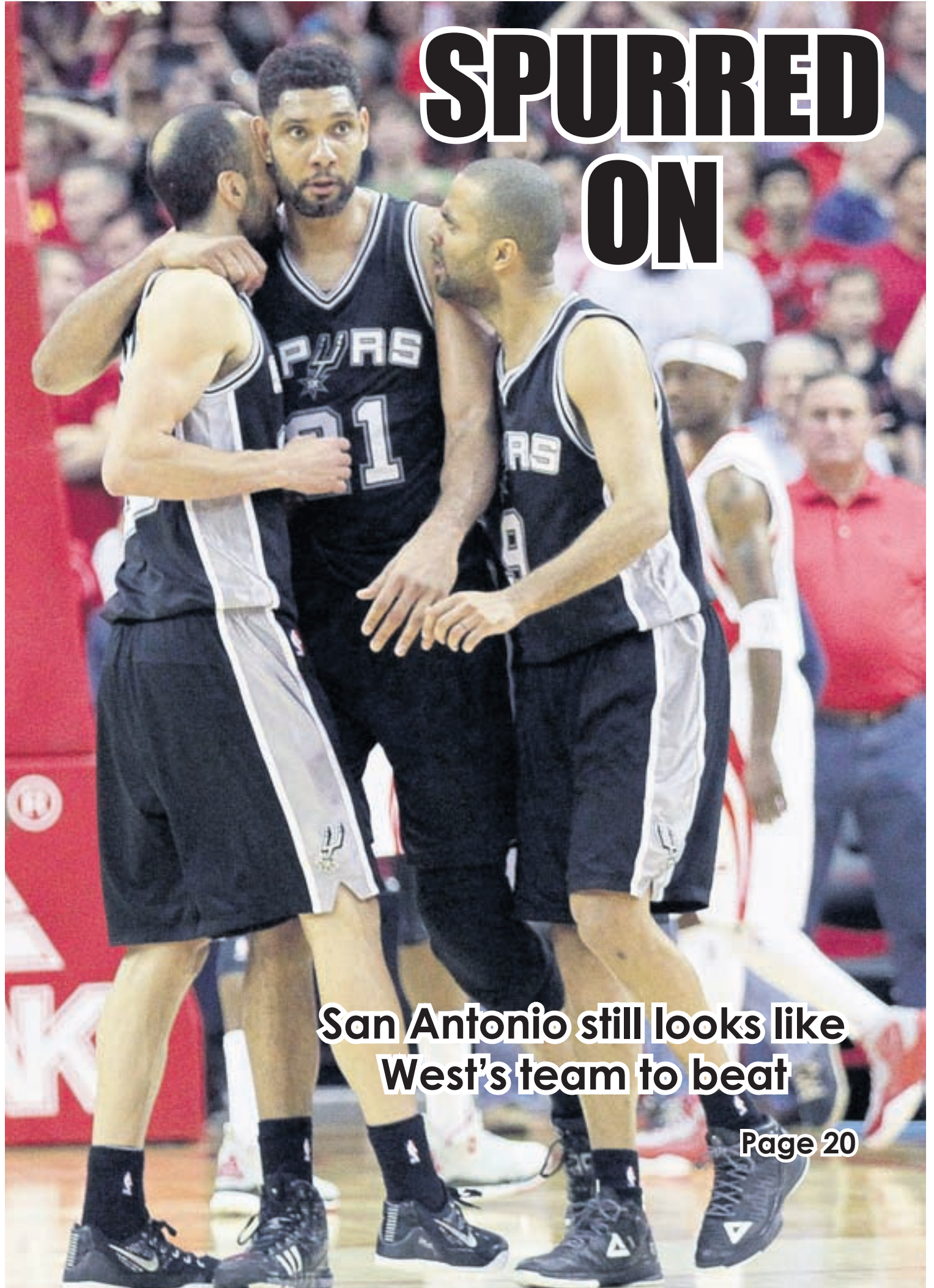
Troy Merritt's 61 trumps Masters champ Spieth's 62

PETE IACOBELLI
AP Sports Writer

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C.

(AP) — Little-known Troy Merritt one-upped the Masters champion Jordan Spieth at the RBC Heritage. Merritt shot a 10-under 61 on Friday to tie the course record at Harbour Town Golf Links only a few hours after Spieth wowed the gallery with a bounce-back 62 to match his lowest PGA Tour round. Merritt tied David Frost's tournament mark set in 1994 and topped the leaderboard at 12-under 130, a stroke off the 36-hole event record shared by Jack Nicklaus and Phil Mickelson. Merritt, who opened with a 69 on Thursday, saw Spieth's score in the morning and knew the opportunity was there to go low. "Anytime that you match shot for shot with the Masters champ, with the way he's playing, it's a pretty good feeling," said Merritt, whose career best in four seasons on the PGA Tour is a tie for second last year at the St. Jude Classic.

Continued on Page 19



San Antonio still looks like West's team to beat

Page 20

San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan (21) receives a hug from Manu Ginobili, left, and Tony Parker after Duncan blocked a layup attempt by Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) at the buzzer during the second half of an NBA basketball game Friday, April 10, 2015, in Houston. San Antonio won 104-103. Associated Press



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Djokovic to face Nadal in Monte Carlo semifinals

SAMUEL PETREQUIN

AP Sports Writer

MONACO (AP) — Winning a game against Novak Djokovic these days is quite an achievement. Even when you're an U.S. Open champion.

Djokovic won the first eight games of his Monte Carlo Masters quarterfinal match Friday before Marin Cilic managed to hold his serve, raising a thumb in the air to celebrate.

The momentum change was short-lived, though, with the top-ranked Djokovic powering his way into the semifinals with a 6-0, 6-3 victory.

"Just all in all it was probably the best match I've played so far in the tournament," Djokovic said. "That's what I want, what I wish for in this moment."

The Serb, who has dropped only 12 games at the Country Club, extended his unbeaten record over his Croatian rival to 12 matches in another display of solid tennis.

Djokovic, who ended Rafael Nadal's reign in Monte Carlo when he won the clay-court Masters tournament in 2013, will next face the Spaniard in a match he sees as "probably the biggest clay-court challenge you can have."

It will be their 43rd career meeting, the first since Nadal beat Djokovic in last year's French Open final.

"I've got to prepare myself mentally for that," Djokovic said. "Other than the mental part, I think physically I'm ready. I'm going to need to keep the high level of performance throughout the entire match tomorrow."

Nadal, an eight-time champion at the Country Club, had to battle for nearly 3 hours before securing a 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 victory over David Ferrer, who stopped him in the quarterfinals last year.

"This is a very important victory for me, for the confidence in the next couple of months," said Nadal, who will be chasing a 10th French Open title from May 24.

Djokovic and Nadal have been

going in opposite directions this season, as Nadal dropped to fifth in the world rankings following a string of poor results on hard court after recovering from a wrist injury and an appendectomy.

is obvious," said Nadal. "He is playing almost perfect. When the things go that well, it is difficult to stop a player like Novak."

Djokovic is off to his best start since 2011. He has lost only two matches

his strapped right foot, and then told Berdych he couldn't continue. Berdych is chasing a second Masters title, 10 years after he made his breakthrough at the Paris Masters. "If you look at the last 10 years,



Rafael Nadal of Spain plays a return to David Ferrer of Spain during their quarterfinal match of the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters tournament in Monaco, Friday, April 17, 2015.

Associated Press

Back on his favorite surface, he passed a significant test against Ferrer, a fellow clay specialist.

Nadal looked set for a comfortable win when Ferrer needed treatment for a blister on a toe when down a break in the second set. But serving for the match at 5-4, Nadal was broken when Ferrer sent a backhand down the line followed by a deep forehand.

Ferrer broke again in the 12th game to claim the set.

Nadal recovered with a break at the start of the decider and broke again in the seventh game as Ferrer ran out of energy.

"Tomorrow I am not favorite, that

in 2015 and is bidding to win a third Masters title in a row this year following victories in Indian Wells and Miami.

"I like the way I'm playing right now," Djokovic said. "I'm trying to impose all the variety in the game that I have."

Earlier, Tomas Berdych advanced to the semifinals for the third time after Milos Raonic retired with a foot injury. He will face Gael Monfils, who followed up his convincing win over Roger Federer in the previous round with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Grigor Dimitrov.

Raonic called for a trainer when trailing 5-2 in the first set to look at

you're going to find three guys that pretty much took all of them," Berdych said about the tall order of winning titles in an era dominated by Djokovic, Nadal and Federer. "They are taking all from us. Usually you've got at least two or three of these guys to win the title. Here it's a bit more open in that sense."

Monfils has a poor 1-5 record against Berdych but managed to beat him on clay at the French Open two years ago.

"I must find the right tactics to neutralize his game because he gives me a lot of trouble," Monfils said. "I'm never able to control him." □



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Troy Merritt's

Continued from Page 17

Spieth looked like the headliner Friday, following a 74 on Thursday with the 62 — which tied his career low set at the Deutsche Bank Championship in 2013.

The 21-year-old Texan has been on a major role the past month, winning the Valspar Championship and finishing second in San Antonio and Houston before capturing his first major title at Augusta National last week.

Spieth birdied his final two holes at Harbour Town, electrifying the crowds already there to cheer him, to shoot the lowest tournament round in 10 years — until Merritt did him one better.

Merritt had nine birdies over his final 10 holes to surge on top and send Spieth six shots behind on a day of low, low scoring. Merritt ended his round with four straight birdies, including a 5-footer on the signature

lighthouse hole, No. 18, to tie the course record.

Merritt was four shots ahead of Matt Kuchar and John Merrick. Kuchar had a 66, and Merrick shot 65. Past RBC Heritage winners and U.S. Open champions Graeme McDowell and Jim Furyk were 7 under along with Kevin Kisner. Furyk had a 64, Kisner shot 67, and McDowell 69.

Spieth was a stroke back at 6 under, tied for seventh in a pack that included former British Open winner Louis Oosthuizen, who shot a 67.

Harbour Town's rarely shown such little bite as low scores were everywhere. Brandt Snedeker, Bryce Molder and Russell Knox had 64s like Furyk. Kevin Streelman, Blake Adams, Brian Harman and John Peterson joined Merritt with 65s. In all, 62 players, including 11 who didn't make the cut, shot sub-70 rounds. The second-round scoring average of 69.641 was the second lowest ever in tournament history, only surpassed by the 2000



Jordan Spieth, right, talks with his caddie, Michael Greller, on the 17th tee during the second round of the RBC Heritage golf tournament in Hilton Head Island, S.C., Friday, April 17, 2015.

Associated Press

third round (69.162). Spieth had the lowest round since Peter Lonard opened the 2005 event with a 62 on the way to capturing the title. It was a distinction that lasted just a few hours. Still, Spieth showed the energy and skill missing in Thursday's struggles.

"That's just better golf," Spieth said. "I told you guys yesterday, no excuses, I

just played poorly."

Spieth said he corrected his ball position and cured the slice that kept him off target Thursday.

"I went back to posture, ball position, hand position and tempo," he explained. "And I struck that ball quite a bit better." Most had understandably figured a highly fatigued Spieth wasn't long for the RBC Heritage. Along with a

grueling week of grinding for a green jacket, Spieth spent two frenetic days in New York on an interview and appearance tour.

He arrived Tuesday night and took the course yesterday without playing a hole of practice. But Spieth said he was motivated to improve on his poor first-round showing. "I don't want to go home early," he said. □



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Let the championship chase begin: it's NBA playoff time

ANTONIO GONZALEZ
AP Basketball Writer

New Orleans and Brooklyn are in the NBA playoffs. Indiana and Oklahoma City are out. And while San Antonio slipped to sixth in the loaded Western Conference, the defending champions are looking awfully dangerous again. Forget the 82-game grind of the past six months. There are no more back-to-back sets, no more uneven schedules, no more excuses.

The playoff brackets are set. Everybody's on equal ground. It's time to crown a champion.

"It's like a new beginning," Golden State Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "It feels like the first game of the season. You're excited. There's a renewed energy and a sense of urgency."

It took the final night of the regular season — with more than half the games on the closing docket loaded with intrigue — to clear up the cluttered playoff picture.

Stephen Curry and the top-seeded Warriors will face Anthony Davis and the Pelicans in a best-of-seven series starting Saturday after New Orleans snapped San Antonio's 11-game winning streak Wednesday night. That ran Russell Westbrook — who sealed the NBA scoring title — and the depleted Thunder out of the postseason and into the draft lottery.

"A month-and-a-half ago, nobody thought we would be in this position," Pelicans coach Monty Williams said. "So many people counted us out ... We got here."

In the East, the Nets nudged their way in by outlasting



Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, right, shoots over Portland Trail Blazers' Nicolas Batum (88) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, April 9, 2015, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

Orlando and getting a boost with Memphis' win over a Pacers team that watched Paul George get helped off the floor again, this time with just a sore left calf, the team said.

Atlanta, the top seed in the East, opens against Brooklyn. LeBron James and the Cavaliers begin with Boston. Chicago meets Milwaukee, and Toronto takes on Washington.

In the wild, wacky West, a logjam between second and sixth is finally sorted

out.

— No. 3 Los Angeles Clippers will face the Spurs.

— No. 2 Houston hooks up with seventh-seeded Dallas.

— No. 5 Memphis meets No. 4 Portland, which won the Northwest Division to finish with a higher seed but will start on the road because of the Grizzlies' better record.

"If you get in, it's a whole new season," Nets forward Joe Johnson said. "Everybody is 0-0 and then you

wipe your hands clean and then you give it another go."

Indeed, the Warriors (67-15) whipped the competition in the regular season, setting a franchise record for wins. Kerr could be NBA Coach of the Year and Curry might be MVP, but only the team that wins 16 more games gets to lift the Larry O'Brien Trophy as confetti falls from the rafters.

"This is what we've been waiting for," said Curry,

whose Warriors clinched home-court advantage throughout the playoffs a couple weeks ago. "Everything we've gone through to this point will hopefully prepare us for this journey." A few familiar faces won't be part of these playoffs. Kobe Bryant, Kevin Durant, Dwyane Wade and Carmelo Anthony are among those who will be watching after getting injured or coming up short with their teams — or both.

The Knicks missed out on the best chance to land the No. 1 pick in the draft lottery; the Timberwolves (16-66) won that honor with the league's worst record. The Lakers (21-61), who started in Minnesota in 1948, lost more games than any team in their storied history. And after four straight trips — and two titles — to the NBA Finals with James leading the way, the undermanned Miami Heat are home already.

James found his way home to Northeast Ohio last summer.

The four-time MVP will try again to end the longest title drought for any North American city with three professional sports franchises. Cleveland hasn't won a championship since the Browns beat the Baltimore Colts for the 1964 NFL title, but there's renewed hope that James, Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love can do what previous Cavs teams couldn't.

"We've been playing the right way — win, lose or draw — we've played the right way," James said. "We've stuck to our system and I think it's built some great habits for us." □

Rangers beat Pens again to open NHL playoffs



Minnesota Wild's Zach Parise, bottom, slides into St. Louis Blues goalie Jake Allen during the second period in Game 1 of an NHL hockey first-round playoff series, Thursday, April 16, 2015, in St. Louis. The Blues' Jay Bouwmeester was given a hooking penalty on the play.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Derick Brassard and Ryan McDonagh scored in the first period and Henrik Lundqvist made the goals stand up as the New York Rangers won the opener of their NHL playoff series with the Pittsburgh Penguins 2-1 on Thursday.

New York shut down Pittsburgh's top threats, Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin, for a fourth straight victory over the Penguins in the postseason. The Rangers won the final three games of a second-round series last year, rallying from a 3-1 deficit.

Lundqvist finished with 24 saves, while Marc-Andre Fleury was far busier in making 36.

Blake Comeau scored in the second period for Pittsburgh.

Game 2 is in New York on Saturday.

RED WINGS 3, LIGHTNING 2
TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Pavel Datsyuk scored twice and Petr Mrazek had 44 saves in his NHL playoff debut to help Detroit beat Tampa Bay in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference

series.

Datsyuk scored on two of the first four shots the Red Wings got against Tampa Bay's Ben Bishop. Luke Glendening's short-handed goal gave Detroit a 3-1 lead early in the third period.

Mrazek, named Detroit's starter for Game 1 over veteran Jimmy Howard, gave up a short-handed goal to Brian Boyle in the first period and a late goal to Nikita Nesterov that enabled the Lightning to pull within 3-2.

Game 2 of this best-of-7 matchup is Saturday in Tampa.

WILD 4, BLUES 2

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Jason Zucker and Matt Dumba gave Minnesota a two-goal lead through two periods and the Wild kept chances to a minimum for Devan Dubnyk, opening the playoffs with a victory over St. Louis.

Jaden Schwartz and Alexander Steen scored in the third period for the Central Division champion Blues. Game 2 is on Saturday.

Dubnyk, in his playoff

debut, saw only 11 shots in the first two periods, and finished with 19 saves.

Mikael Granlund's empty-netter made it a two-goal cushion with 1:13 to go, 7 seconds after Allen headed for the bench. Steen scored with 58.7 seconds left for St. Louis, but Jason Pominville scored with 20 seconds left to clinch it.

DUCKS 4, JETS 2

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Corey Perry scored two goals in the third period of a four-point performance as Anaheim rallied from another late deficit for a victory over Winnipeg in the teams' first-round series opener.

Perry scored the tiebreaking goal with 6:39 to play, but the officials didn't immediately see that the puck had crossed the goal line near Ondrej Pavelec's outstretched pad. The teams played on for 62 seconds until a stoppage allowed video review. The tape confirmed another impressive third-period rally by the Ducks, who had 24 comeback wins in the regular season. Rookie Adam Lowry and

Drew Stafford scored for the Jets in their first postseason game since the

Atlanta Thrashers moved to Canada four years ago. Game 2 is Saturday night. □

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DisneyNature Monkey Kingdom
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:30 | 6:30 | 8:30
FRI 4:30 | 6:30 | 8:30 | 10:30
SAT 2:30 | 4:30 | 6:30 | 8:30 | 10:30
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:30 | 6:30 | 8:30

KEVIN JAMES | RAINI RODRIGUEZ
PAUL BLART MALL COP 2
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:40 | 6:50 | 9:10
FRI 4:40 | 6:50 | 9:10 | 11:20
SAT 2:30 | 4:40 | 6:50 | 9:10 | 11:20
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:40 | 6:50 | 9:10

XAVIER ATKINS | MARK LEWIS JONES
CHILD 44
MON-THURS 6:05 | 9:00
FRI 6:05 | 9:00
SAT 3:10 | 6:05 | 9:00
SUN & HOL 3:10 | 6:05 | 9:00

SHAILENE WOODLEY | ANSEL ELGORT
THE DIVERGENT SERIES INSURGENT
MON-THURS 9:30
FRI 9:30 | 12:05
SAT 9:30 | 12:05
SUN & HOL 9:30

VIN DIESEL | PAUL WALKER
FURIOUS 7
ON TWO SCREENS
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
3D VERSION
MON-THURS 5:15 | 8:15
FRI 5:15 | 8:15 | 11:15
SAT 2:15 | 5:15 | 8:15 | 11:15
SUN & HOL 2:15 | 5:15 | 8:15
2D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:30 | 7:30
FRI 4:30 | 7:30 | 10:30
SAT 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30 | 10:30
SUN & HOL 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30

WILL FERRELL | KEVIN HART
GET HARD
MON-THURS 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35
FRI 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SAT 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35

JIM PARSONS | RIHANNA
HOME
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
3D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40
FRI 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40 | 10:50
SAT 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40 | 10:50
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40
2D VERSION
MON-FRI 5:10 | 7:20
SAT, SUN & HOL 3:00 | 5:10 | 7:20

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Diamondbacks beat Giants 7-6 in 12 innings

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Aaron Hill hit a two-run double with two outs in the 12th inning as the Arizona Diamondbacks held on to beat the San Francisco Giants 7-6 on Thursday.

Ender Inciarte singled to lead off the inning against Sergio Romo (0-1) and stole second base. After Paul Goldschmidt was intentionally walked with one out, Cliff Pennington popped out to short.

Hill followed with a line shot into the gap in left-center to drive in both runners.

Randall Delgado (1-1), the eighth

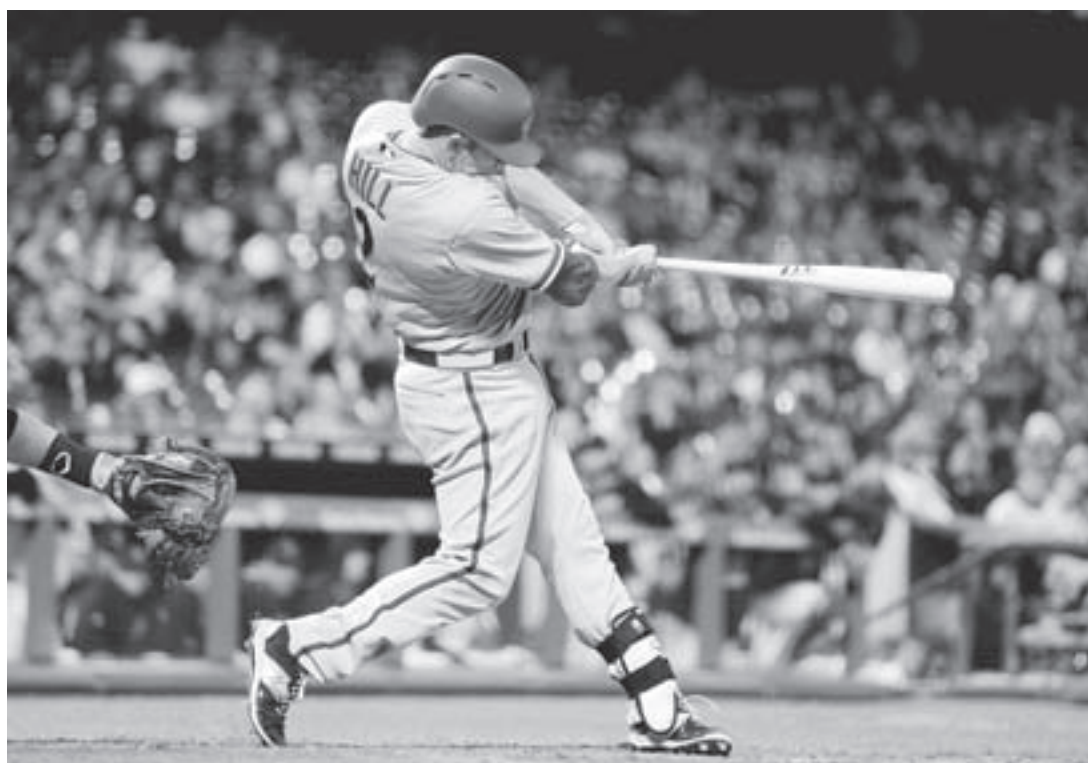
Arizona pitcher, retired six batters for the win.

Mark Trumbo, Paul Goldschmidt and A.J. Pollock homered for the Diamondbacks, who blew a three-run lead late before beating San Francisco for only the fourth time in the last 15 games.

Brandon Crawford homered to end an 0-for-23 slump for the Giants. San Francisco has lost seven straight.

METS 7, MARLINS 5

NEW YORK (AP) — Lucas Duda got three more hits and New York overcame Giancarlo Stanton's blast and Ichiro Suzuki's scoring dive for its fifth straight win.



Arizona Diamondbacks' Aaron Hill swings for a two run double off San Francisco Giants' Sergio Romo in the 12th inning of a baseball game Thursday, April 16, 2015, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

The Mets lost a replay challenge that took nearly six minutes, but posted their longest winning streak since May 2013.

Wilmer Flores hit a three-run homer that helped the Mets rally from a 3-0 deficit. Duda raised his average to .395.

Stanton hit his first home run since a fastball to the face ended his season last September.

Suzuki made a pair of head-first dives into home plate

on the same play, eluding catcher Travis d'Arnaud to make it 5-all in the seventh. Originally called out, Suzuki was ruled safe after a lengthy video review.

Jerry Blevins (1-0) got the win and Jeury's Familia closed for his fourth save. Mike Dunn (0-1) took the loss.

CARDINALS 4, BREWERS 0

ST. LOUIS (AP) — John Lackey threw seven scoreless innings and Matt Carpenter doubled twice, helping St.

Louis over Milwaukee.

Lackey (1-0) gave up five hits, struck out eight and walked one.

St. Louis took a 2-0 lead on two doubles and two singles in the sixth inning.

Carpenter doubled to right to begin the sixth inning. With one out,

Matt Holliday hit a 3-2 pitch up the middle for a run-scoring single. Holiday stole second and went to third on Jhonny Peralta's single. Mark Reynolds hit an RBI

double to center, but Peralta was thrown out trying to score.

Brewers starter Mike Fiers (0-2) allowed seven hits in 5 2-3 innings.

NATIONALS 5 PHILLIES 2

WASHINGTON (AP) — Doug Fister pitched effectively into the seventh inning, Yunel Escobar and Michael A. Taylor each hit a homer, and Washington beat Philadelphia.

Ryan Zimmerman added a two-run double for Washington which, after averaging 2.4 runs through its first seven games, has 22 runs and 28 hits over its last three.

Fister (1-0) allowed two runs on four hits in 6 2-3 innings, striking out four and walking four.

Drew Storen pitched the ninth for his third save.

Cole Hamels (0-2) gave up five runs and five hits in six innings.

He walked four and struck out seven.

The left-hander had allowed three earned runs or fewer in each of his last 15 starts against Washington. In other NL games it was St. Louis 4, Milwaukee 0; Washington 5, Philadelphia 2; N.Y. Mets 7, Miami 5; and Arizona 7, San Francisco 6, 12 innings. □

Twins power their way past Royals for series win

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) —

Kenys Vargas and Kurt Suzuki each hit a two-run homer, powering Minnesota to its first series win this season.

Tommy Milone (2-0) picked up his second straight victory for the Twins, recovering from a rough start to log 5 1-3 innings.

Lorenzo Cain put the Royals in front with his two-run shot in the first inning, but starter Jason Vargas (1-1) gave up 10 hits and a walk, leaving in the fourth with a 5-3 deficit.

RAYS 4, BLUE JAYS 2

TORONTO (AP) — Chris Archer struck out 11 in seven shutout innings and pinch-hitter Tim Beckham had a two-run homer in the sixth to lead Tampa Bay.



Minnesota Twins starting pitcher Tommy Milone delivers to the Kansas City Royals during the first inning of a baseball game in Minneapolis, Thursday, April 16, 2015.

Associated Press

It was the second pinch-hit homer of the season for Beckham, making him the first rookie in Tampa Bay history with two pinch-hit long balls — and the first Rays player since Willy Aybar in 2010 to hit two in a season.

Before this season, the only Rays rookies with pinch-hit home runs were Bubba Trammell in 1998 and Jonny Gomes in 2005.

Archer (2-1) allowed just two hits and two walks, lowering his ERA to 1.37.

Steve Geltz and Kevin Jepsen worked the eighth and Brad Boxberger finished for his fourth save.

In other AL games it was Minnesota 8, Kansas City 5; and Tampa Bay 4, Toronto 2. □

WikiLeaks creates online archive of hacked Sony documents

MAE ANDERSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sony's hacking problems aren't over yet.

Whistleblower site WikiLeaks on Thursday put hundreds of thousands of emails and documents from last year's crippling cyberattack against Sony Pictures Entertainment into a searchable online archive. It's the latest blow for the entertainment and technology company struggling to get past the attack, which the company estimates caused millions in damage.

The website founded by Julian Assange said that its database includes more than 170,000 emails from Sony Pictures and a subsidiary, plus more than 30,000 other documents.

Sony Pictures blasted WikiLeaks for creating the archive, saying the website was helping the hackers disseminate stolen information.

"We vehemently disagree with WikiLeaks' assertion that this material belongs in the public domain," the company said in a statement.

But Assange said the documents should be available to the public. Although they had been online, it was in a compressed format that wasn't easily searchable.

"This archive shows the inner workings of an influential multinational corporation," Assange said. "It is newsworthy and at the center of a geo-political conflict. It belongs in the public domain. WikiLeaks will ensure it stays there."

The WikiLeaks site lets users find emails, documents or an entire cache of files through searches using keywords, people who sent or received emails and types of files. The site made a name for itself in 2010 when it began publishing diplomatic cables leaked by Chelsea Manning, formerly known as Bradley Manning.

Assange is currently battling a detention order in Sweden, where he is wanted by prosecutors in

an investigation of alleged sex crimes. He has avoided being extradited to Sweden by taking shelter in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London since 2012.

Sony Pictures' troubles began last December after it suffered an extensive hacking attack and release of confidential emails ahead of its release of "The Interview," a comedy that centers around the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. A group calling itself Guardians of the Peace took credit for the attack, and U.S. intelligence officials said the group was linked to North Korea, but no official link has been made.

The attack exposed tens of thousands of sensitive documents, including studio financial records, employment files and emails between Sony executives. Some emails revealed exchanges between Oscar-winning producer Scott Rudin and Sony Pictures' co-chair Amy Pascal that contained a frank assessment of Angelina Jolie's talent and racially offensive jokes about President Barack Obama's presumed taste



In this Aug. 18, 2014, file photo, Ecuador's Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino, left, and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange speak during a news conference inside the Ecuadorian Embassy in London. Associated Press

in movies. The company announced in February that Pascal would transition to a job as the head of a new production venture at the studio.

Sony Pictures at first shelved "The Interview," but it was later opened in a limited release.

The studio's parent, Tokyo-based Sony Corp.,

launched an overhaul of its own security in 2011 after hackers broke into its PlayStation Network gaming system and stole data of 77 million users. □

Don't plan to line up for Apple Watch next week

BRANDON BAILEY

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — If you're planning on buying the new Apple Watch, don't expect to walk into a store and leave with one next week.

Apple, which began accepting advance orders for the watch last week, had previously said it would be "available" for sale in stores on April 24, at least for customers who made reservations to come in for a personal demonstration. But with supplies limited, Apple's retail chief has told store workers that the watch will continue to be sold only through online orders for at least the next several weeks.

That's a departure from the way the way Apple has

launched other new products, such as its popular iPhones, which have been offered for sale in stores to customers who often arrived hours early and lined up outside before the first day of a new release.

But Apple has adopted a new strategy for the watch, which Apple executive Angela Ahrendts described this week as "not just a new product but an entirely new category for us." Apple stores have had watches on display since last week, and the company is offering in-person demonstrations for customers who want to try different models.

Ahrendts wrote in a memo to workers this week that, "due to high global interest, combined with our ini-

tial supply, we are only taking orders online right now. I'll have more updates as we get closer to in-store availability, but we expect this to continue through the month of May." The memo was first obtained by the tech blog 9to5Mac and its authenticity was verified by The Associated Press.

Apple has not said how many watches have been ordered to date. The market research firm Slice Intelligence estimated nearly 1 million people placed orders on April 10, the first day Apple began accepting them. Apple says customers who placed early orders will have their watches delivered starting Friday. Watches ordered in recent days may take



A customer examines Apple's new watch at an Apple store in San Francisco, Friday, April 10, 2015. Associated Press

several weeks to arrive. Ahrendts said the company can fill orders more quickly online.

That doesn't mean the company will start using this approach with all new products, Ahrendts said. She wrote: "We all love those blockbuster Apple product launch days — and there will be many more to come." □

Verizon slices up the bundle, lets customers choose plan

TALI ARBEL

NEW YORK (AP) — Under pressure from an expanding number of cheaper online video services, the long-dominant bundle of channels offered by pay-TV companies is becoming a bit more flexible.

Verizon said Friday that it would let customers pick groups of channels that interest them, a plan that is separate from the traditional bundle that has been offered to customers for years.

The penchant for pick-and-choose online video is reshaping pay-TV. More and more people, fed up with large cable bundles with dozens of channels they don't watch and hate to pay for, are signing up for cheaper streaming services like Netflix. Amazon.com has also entered the game, as have HBO Now and Dish Network's Sling TV. Apple is reportedly working on its own version, too.

Verizon FiOS president Tami Erwin said on CNBC Friday that while she expects some existing customers to switch to the new plan, it will also attract new customers.

But the new FiOS Custom TV option is still fairly expensive, starting at \$55, and may not appeal to people who have already cut the cord, or who have never subscribed to cable TV packages, said Jefferies analyst Mike McCormack.

"This is going to be more for people who just want less content," he said. "To me this feels sort of like a half-step. I don't think 'cord-nevers' have an interest, frankly, in set-top boxes."

If you want Internet too, the FiOS skinny TV deal plus Internet costs \$65 to \$85 per month. It also doesn't include taxes, equipment and other fees — but it's not a promotional price similar to those used by pay-TV companies to hook customers, including FiOS.

On FiOS' website, promotional prices for an Internet plus TV deal cost \$75 to \$85 per month for a two-year contract. That comes with more than 150 channels. FiOS Custom TV, available Sunday, has a setup similar to some new online entrants, although bigger, pricier and, of course, not an online video service. Dish's Sling TV Web service gives you about 20 channels for \$20/month, with add-on options including HBO for \$15 and other pre-selected channel packs for \$5 each. Sony's PlayStation Vue service, an online package of more than 50 channels, starts at \$50 a month.

Verizon will give customers the option to buy a base package for about \$55 with more than 35 channels — such as AMC, CNN and Food Network — plus two additional channel packs that have themes including sports, children and lifestyle. You can add more packs, which have about 10 to 17 channels on average, for \$10 each, and swap out packs after 30 days. There's no contract required.

While momentum has been swinging toward streaming services like Netflix, many industry watchers believe that traditional TV is changing, but not necessarily facing extinction.

"This is more of an evolution than a revolution," said Nomura analyst Adam Ilkowitz. "This is not Verizon saying the bundle is dead — there's still a lot of bundling attached to it. This is an acknowledgement that consumer preference is maybe shifting."

Only about 20 million households have access to FiOS, which has 5.6 million video subscribers and 6.6 million Internet customers.

But the shift by Verizon Communications Inc. could put pressure on bigger TV providers.

Greek 'day of reckoning' shakes Wall Street

BERNARD CONDON

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Fear that Greece could default and abandon the euro is rattling global financial markets.

News that negotiations between Greece and its inter-

The Dow regained some of those losses toward the close of trading, ending down 279.47 to 17,826.30, a drop of 1.5 percent.

That was only the worst drop since March 25. The Dow has struggled since reaching a record high on

revenue fell short.

Advanced Micro Devices plunged 10 percent after reporting a larger loss than investors had expected after the market closed on Thursday. The chipmaker's stock fell 29 cents to \$2.58. Investors have been braced



Trader Jonathan Corpina, right, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Fear that Greece could default and abandon the euro is rattling global financial markets.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

national lenders are making little progress sent European stock markets down sharply on Friday, and the selling spread across the Atlantic. By the close of U.S. trading, stocks across industries were lower, with four of five stocks down. Investors shifted money into German government bonds, a perceived haven in troubled times.

In the U.S., disappointing first-quarter financial results from several big companies fed the selling. After American Express reported revenue that fell short of expectations, investors drove down its stock more than 4 percent.

"The day of reckoning" for Greece is fast approaching, said Uri Landesman, president of investment fund Platinum Partners. "People thought everyone would work it out, but if no one caves, there won't be a deal."

For all the turmoil in the markets, major U.S. stock indexes closed the day with relatively modest losses. At one point, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 357, heading for its worst day in six months.

March 2 and is now back where it started the year.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 23.81 points, or 1.1 percent, to 2,081.18. The Nasdaq composite fell 75.98 points, or 1.5 percent, to 4,931.81.

Greece and its creditors are still struggling to find a deal that can keep the country from defaulting on its debt. The argument is over what reforms Greece should make in return for loans. Many think Greece will struggle to make payments to the International Monetary Fund due next month if it fails to reach a deal.

The concerns have caused investors to demand higher rates for loaning money to Greece's government. The yield on the country's benchmark 10-year bond jumped to 12.72 percent Friday. That rate has more than doubled from 5.51 percent in September.

In corporate news, Honeywell International fell \$2.22, or 2 percent, to \$101.70 after reporting disappointing first-quarter results. The industrial conglomerate posted earnings per share that beat estimates, but its

ing themselves for a disappointing earnings season. Companies in the S&P 500 are expected to report earnings per share fell 2.6 percent from a year earlier, according to S&P Capital IQ, a research firm. That would be the first drop since 2009.

Jim Paulsen, chief investment strategist at Wells Capital Management, said stocks are now somewhat expensive compared with earnings and, along with a list of other worries, the news from Greece on Friday proved just too much to bear. "When you have more nervous investors, news becomes magnified," he said. Worrisome news out of China also weighed on investors. After markets closed in Asia, Chinese financial regulators issued warnings about that country's soaring stock market. Regulators said they will tighten rules on borrowing to buy stocks. They also plan to make it easier for investors to bet against the market there. The Wall Street Journal reported. Shanghai's stock market has more than doubled in the last year. □

Barbie shows signs of life as Mattel plots comeback

NEW YORK (AP) — Things are finally looking up for Barbie. Mattel, the toy company behind the plastic dolls, said there were some signs of improving demand for Barbie ahead of its planned makeover of the brand, including Barbie dolls with different skin tones, eye colors and nose shapes to better relate to multicultural girls and their mothers.

The El Segundo, California, company also reported

better-than-expected financial results for the first quarter and its shares rose more than 5 percent on Friday. Mattel said late Thursday that more people were buying Barbie dolls in U.S. stores. BMO Capital Markets analyst Gerrick Johnson said the rise was a "positive" development, in a note to clients. However, Mattel said overall sales of the brand including sales to retailers were still down 14 percent, largely because

of the stronger dollar.

Barbie sales have fallen as kids turn to tablets and other toys. Mattel hopes to reinvent the brand this year. In June, Barbie have 23 new looks with different skin tones and hair colors. One has freckles, a wide nose and curly hair. Another has almond-shaped brown eyes and dark skin. Mattel said it wants to make dolls that girls and their moms can better relate to. The dolls will be part of its core

Fashionista line.

"This will be an important cultural milestone for the brand," said Richard Dickson, Mattel's president and chief operating officer, in a conference call with investors on Thursday.

As part of the launch, Barbie will also get a photo spread in Italian version of fashion magazine Vogue. Mattel said that it will also release three Barbie movies this year, one more than usual. The movies, which will air

on cable channel Nickelodeon and be released on DVD, can increase sales of the doll, the company said. To develop new toys, Mattel announced Friday that it will partner with Quirky, a company that helps inventors bring their ideas to life. With the partnership, Mattel and Quirky will seek ideas from customers for new toys and games. "This marks a new era for Mattel," said Dickson, in a written statement. □

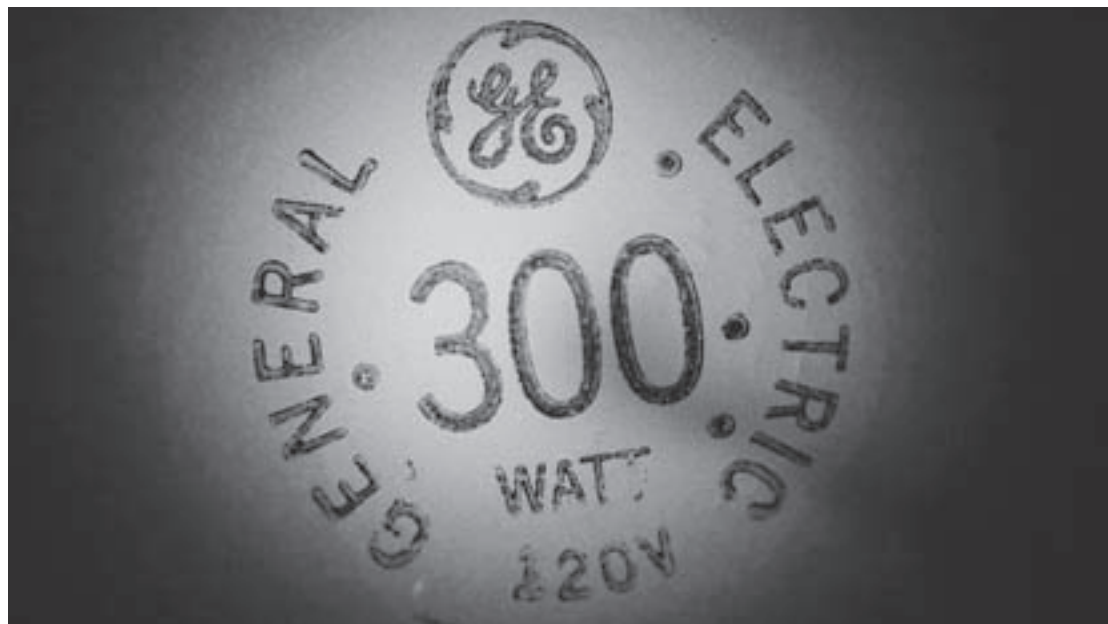
Bellwether GE posts \$13.6 billion loss on finance unit sale

JONATHAN FAHEY
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The industrial heart of General Electric, the company's new focus, posted lower revenue and earnings in the first quarter amid an enormous overall loss resulting from its recently-announced sale of most of the assets in its finance subsidiary.

Net income from the part of GE that the company will retain after the sale fell 5 percent to \$3.1 billion, the company said Friday. Adjusted earnings per share fell 6 percent to 31 cents, a penny better than analysts polled by Zacks Investment Research expected, on average.

Revenue fell 12 percent to \$29.4 billion, below the \$34.4 billion analysts ex-



A General Electric light bulb glows as it is turned off in Buffalo, N.Y. General Electric Co. (GE) on Friday April 17, 2015 reported a first-quarter loss of \$13.57 billion, after reporting a profit in the same period a year earlier.

(AP Photo/David Duprey, File)

pected.

GE CEO Jeff Immelt said in a statement that the global economic environment re-

mained "volatile" but that investments in large infrastructure projects being made around the world

provided opportunities for growth. GE announced last week it would sell most of the assets in its GE Capital

subsidiary, the latest and most dramatic move by the company to transform itself into a more focused industrial conglomerate that makes large, complicated equipment for other businesses.

Costs and charges associated with the sale totaling \$14.1 billion pushed the company to an overall loss of \$13.57 billion in the quarter, down from a profit of \$3 billion during last year's first quarter. On a per-share basis, the company lost \$1.35. "This is the plan for the future of GE as a fast-growth, high-tech industrial company," Immelt said in a statement Friday.

Investors cheered the plan last week when it was revealed, bidding GE shares up 11 percent after the announcement. □

Volkswagen board leaders back CEO Winterkorn after struggle

GEIR MOULSON
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Volkswagen CEO Martin Winterkorn will remain in his job and can look forward to having his contract extended, the leadership of the board said Friday, after a comment by chairman Ferdinand Piech raised widespread doubts about his future.

A turbulent week for Europe's biggest automaker started when Piech, who has long been the company's key powerbroker, was quoted last Friday as telling Der Spiegel magazine he was "at a distance from

Winterkorn."

That surprised observers and prompted fevered speculation about the position of Winterkorn, 67, Volkswagen's CEO since 2007. Winterkorn's contract runs until the end of next year. Winterkorn "is the best possible" chief executive for Volkswagen, Friday's statement from the six-strong executive committee of Volkswagen's 20-member supervisory board said. Piech is part of the committee.

It added that the body "places great importance on the fact" that Winterkorn "will pursue his role ... with

the same vigor and success as before, and that he has the full support of the committee in doing so." The committee will propose extending Winterkorn's contract at a board meeting next February, it said, without specifying how long the extension may be.

The 78-year-old Piech, himself a former CEO, didn't specify last week what his issue with Winterkorn was, though experts have pointed to concerns about profitability at the core Volkswagen brand and a disappointing market share in the U.S. as possible factors.

Winterkorn has received backing from the head of Volkswagen's influential employee council, while the governor of Lower Saxony state, a minority shareholder, criticized the public discussion about the company's leadership. Union and employee representatives make up half of major German companies' supervisory boards.

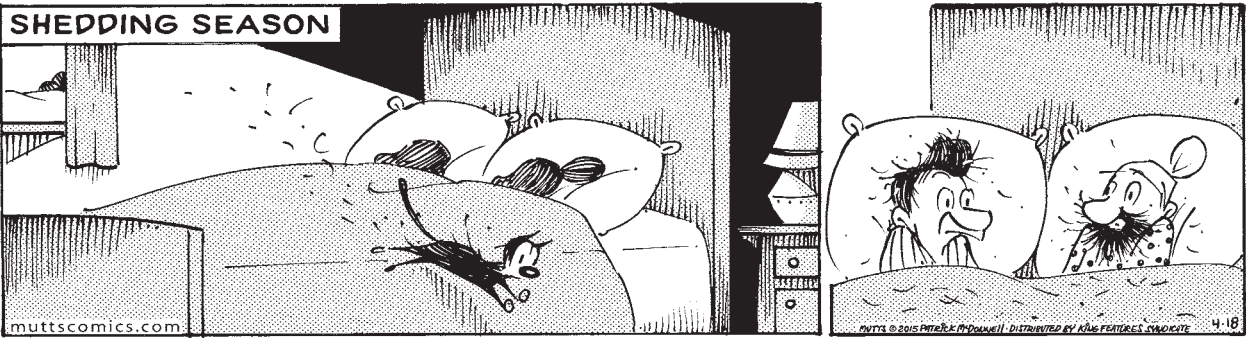
The Piech and Porsche families together control a majority of shares in Volkswagen. Board member Wolfgang Porsche said in a statement Sunday that Piech's comment about

Winterkorn represents "his private opinion" and wasn't cleared with his family.

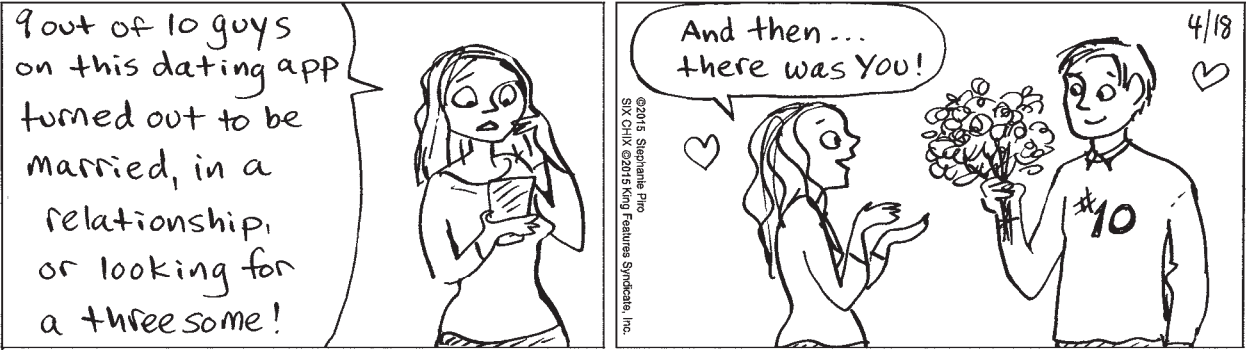
Volkswagen shares initially rose on Friday's news but closed 1.1 percent lower at 235 euros (\$251.66). Frankfurt's DAX index of blue chip stocks was 2.6 percent lower overall.

Also Friday, Volkswagen said it delivered 2.49 million vehicles worldwide in the first quarter, 1.8 percent more than a year earlier. Sales in Europe rose 4.1 percent and deliveries in China were up 2 percent, but U.S. sales declined 1.4 percent. □

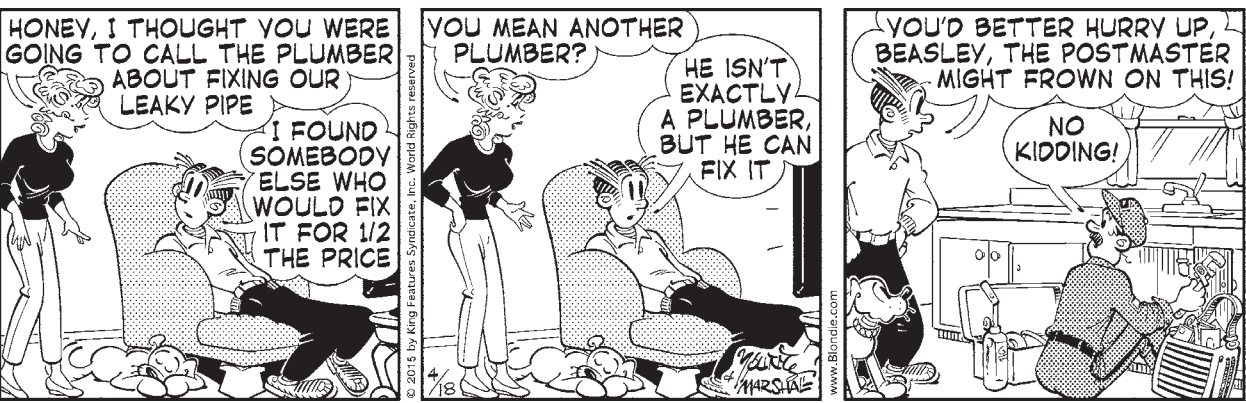
Mutts



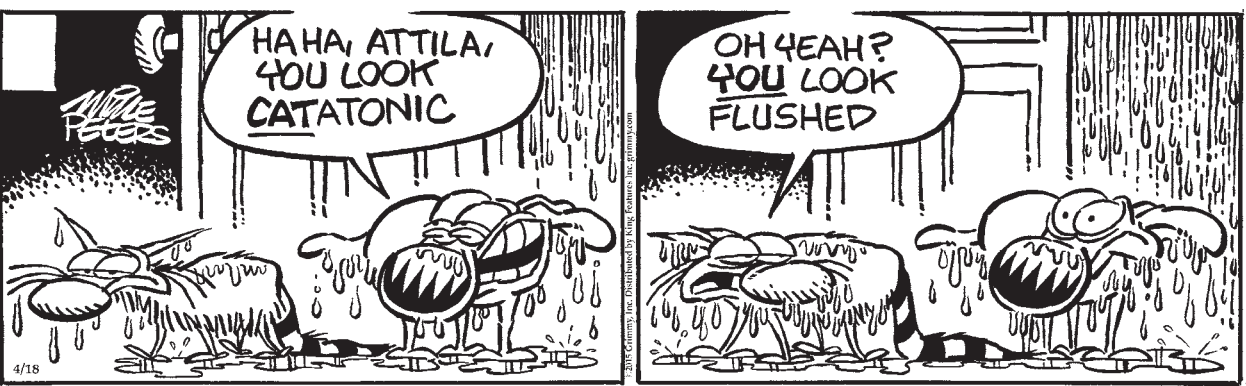
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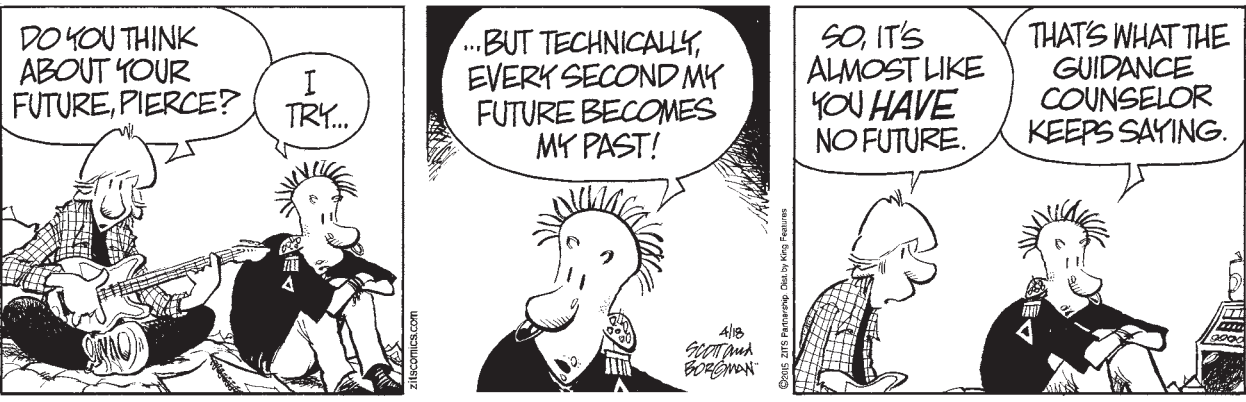
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

4	8		5					
2			6			1		7
		9						
3				6				
		1	3		7	8		
				4				5
						6		
8		5			3			2
				6		4		9

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 4/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	9	4	3	7	1	6	2	5
5	2	6	4	9	8	3	1	7
1	3	7	5	2	6	9	4	8
9	8	3	2	6	7	4	5	1
2	4	5	1	8	3	7	6	9
6	7	1	9	5	4	2	8	3
3	6	2	8	1	9	5	7	4
4	5	8	7	3	2	1	9	6
7	1	9	6	4	5	8	3	2

- ACROSS
- 1 Evil
 - 4 Glasgow folks
 - 9 Slimy crawler
 - 13 _ a test; passed easily
 - 15 Narrow boat
 - 16 Long car, for short
 - 17 Bangkok fellow
 - 18 Happen
 - 19 Notice; spot
 - 20 In another place
 - 22 " _ boy!"; new parents' cry
 - 23 NASCAR's Yarbrough
 - 24 Carping spouse
 - 26 Leg bones
 - 29 Making deep cuts in
 - 34 At _ for words; speechless
 - 35 Uses a Kindle
 - 36 Mutt
 - 37 "Red Planet"
 - 38 TV's Mandel
 - 39 _ one's time; wait
 - 40 Greek letter
 - 41 Jim Nabors TV role
 - 42 Cuban dance
 - 43 Fell back into a bad habit
 - 45 Dartboard
 - 46 Tam or beret
 - 47 In a _; briefly
 - 48 Fashionable
 - 51 Unwise
 - 56 Days of _; yesteryear
 - 57 Netherlands' national flower
 - 58 Sudden attack
 - 60 Make a mess at the table
 - 61 Do penance
 - 62 Fodder tower
 - 63 Camp shelter
 - 64 Windowsill
 - 65 Mr. Iacocca

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13			14					15			16
17								18			19
			20					21			22
								23			24
								25			
26	27	28						29	30		31
								32			33
34								35			36
37								38			39
40								41			42
43								44			45
								46			47
48	49	50						51	52	53	54
								55			56
57								58			59
60								61			62
63								64			65

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/18/15

Friday's Puzzle Solved

ALDER	FRED	PAPA
LOUSE	LUTE	AGED
PONCE	ABCS	READ
STEALERS	PRINCE	
PILE	BOOSTED	
ASCEND	PATCH	
ROO	GENES	KEITH
CARR	RADIO	SORE
SPEED	MANNA	TEN
CAMEL	SPEAKS	
ANGERED	FERN	
DOESNT	MOTORIST	
OWES	AJAR	PINTO
BASE	LORD	OCTET
EYES	SEES	SHOPS

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4/18/15

- DOWN
- 1 Blind as a _
 - 2 Muscle cramp

- 3 Pass out cards
- 4 Angry looks
- 5 Hidden supply
- 6 _ more; again
- 7 Sightseeing trip
- 8 Minstrel's love song
- 9 Santa's vehicle
- 10 Tilt to one side
- 11 "Safe" & "Out" criers, for short
- 12 Spanish artist
- 14 Talk about
- 21 Corncobs
- 25 Donkey
- 26 Hall of _; superior athlete
- 27 Gladden
- 28 _ compass; sense of right and wrong
- 29 Sutured
- 30 Hideaway
- 31 Donut coating
- 32 Elbow
- 33 Magnificent
- 35 Italy's capital
- 38 Nurse's place of work, often
- 39 Edges
- 41 Transcript abbr.
- 42 Jack or joker
- 44 Take what is offered
- 45 Man's wig
- 47 Squeeze water from a rag
- 48 Benign growth
- 49 Gap; opening
- 50 Common metal
- 52 TV remote control button
- 53 Trudge
- 54 Hammered fastener
- 55 Flooring piece
- 59 Fawn's mother

US senator wants a woman on the \$20 bill



A likeness of Andrew Jackson, seventh President of the United States, adorns the front of \$20 bill Friday, April 17, 2015, in Boston. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-NH, filed legislation Tuesday to create a citizens panel to recommend an appropriate woman candidate to be put on the bill. (AP Photo/Bill Sikes)

HOLLY RAMER

Associated Press

CONCORD, New Hampshire (AP) —

The first woman to serve as both governor and U.S. senator is backing a campaign to put a female face on the \$20 bill.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen filed legislation this week that would create a citizens panel to recommend an appropriate choice to the treasury secretary. She is hoping to build on the work of Women on 20s, a national campaign pushing for new \$20 bills by 2020, the 100th anniversary of the constitutional amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote.

The current portrait of former President Andrew Jackson has stared out from the face of the \$20 since 1928. But paper currency is redesigned every seven to 10 years to thwart counterfeiters, and the latest \$20 notes entered circulation in 2003. Currently, there are no women on U.S. paper currency. Changes can be ordered by the treasury secretary or president without an act of Congress, and Shaheen's bill wouldn't compel either to do so. Still, she and campaign supporters hope it will boost public support for redesigning the currency and spur broader conversation about the achievements of American women.

"I think there are a lot of opportunities that we sometimes don't think about to point out the significant contributions women have

made in U.S. history," Shaheen said. "And this is one of those opportunities." Barbara Ortiz Howard founded Women on 20s last year to honor historic women by making them visible in everyday lives. With help from experts in women's history, the group compiled a list of 15 candidates that was narrowed to four finalists after a month of online voting: former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, escaped slave and leading abolitionist Harriet Tubman, civil rights icon Rosa Parks and former Cherokee Nation Chief Wilma Mankiller. More than 230,000 people voted in the first week after the finalists were announced April 6, said the group's executive director, Susan Ades Stone. Stone said voting will continue as long as interest

remains high, though the group may approach the White House in the next few weeks.

"The name of the winner is not what this is about. What it's about is showing that there's wide support for a woman on our paper currency," she said. "We are not under any illusions that the person who comes out of our polling will be the person who ends up on a bill because there is a process and that process usually involves empaneling a group of experts to make certain design choices."

In a speech in Missouri last year, President Barack Obama described getting a letter from a young girl suggesting a long list of women to put on currency, and he said he thought that was "a pretty good idea." □

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24/7

Those puppy eyes can help a dog bond with owner

MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Oh, those puppy eyes.

Just by gazing at their owners, dogs can trigger a response in their masters' brains that helps them bond, a study says. And owners can do a similar trick in return, researchers found.

This two-way street evidently began when dogs were domesticated long ago, because it helped the two species connect, the Japanese researchers say.

As canine psychology experts Evan MacLean and Brian Hare of Duke University wrote in a commentary on the work, "When your dog is staring at you, she may not just be after your sandwich."

The new work is the first to present a biological mechanism for bonding across species, said researcher Larry Young of Emory University.

Neither he nor the Duke scientists were involved in the study, which is reported in a paper from Japan released Thursday by the journal Science.

The brain response is an increase in levels of a hormone called oxytocin. Studies in people and animals indicate this substance promotes social bonding, such as between parent and infant or between two lovers.

One experiment in the

new research involved 30 owners and their dogs. Oxytocin levels in the urine of both species were sampled before and after

in oxytocin levels. Similarly, dogs that gazed longer got a hormone boost, too. That's evidently in response to being touched

experiment with wolves. The animals were paired with people who had raised them, although not as pets. The difference

Another experiment with dogs found they looked at their owners longer if they were given doses of oxytocin, and that the hormone's levels then went up in their owners. But these results appeared only in female dogs; the reason isn't clear.

An oxytocin researcher not connected to the study said previous work had provided bits of evidence that the hormone plays a role in bonding between species, but that the new work is more comprehensive.

"It makes very good sense," said C. Sue Carter, who directs the Kinsey Institute at Indiana University.

But Clive Wynne of Arizona State University, a psychologist who studies interaction between dogs and people, said he thinks the link to domestication is "barking up the wrong tree." The study doesn't provide convincing evidence for that, he said.

Emory's Young, who studies bonding behavior, said the relationship between people and dogs is special. Human love can lose its initial exhilaration over time, he said, but he hasn't seen that with the dogs he has owned for 10 years.

"When I come home from work every day, they are just as excited to see me now as they were when I got them," Young said. □



In this Friday, March 6, 2015 file photo, a Welsh corgi competes in the ring with its owner on the second day of Crufts dog show at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, England.

Associated Press

the owners and their dogs spent a half-hour together.

Analysis showed that owners whose dogs looked at them longer in the first five minutes had bigger boosts

by their owners during the session, one of the study authors, Takefumi Kikusui of Azabu University near Tokyo, said in an email.

No such result appeared when researchers tried the

suggests dogs started gazing at owners as a social strategy when they became domesticated, rather than inheriting it from their wolf ancestors, researchers said.

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ACM hosts Shelton and Bryan work as comedic duo

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) —

Expecting music at Sunday's Academy of Country Music Awards? You should be ready for comedy.

Hosts Blake Shelton and Luke Bryan held a press conference Friday at the AT&T Stadium and offered a preview of what's to come when the ACMs celebrate their 50th anniversary in Arlington, Texas.

The show, where Miranda Lambert is the lead nominee with eight nominations, will feature 23 performances, including a kickoff from Keith Urban and Eric Church. Garth Brooks and Taylor Swift are among the A-list attendees. The show will air live on CBS (8 p.m. EDT).

"I don't even know who's singing."

That's just the god's honest truth," Shelton said to laughs. "I know Miranda is and I always look forward to that."

Here's a breakdown of the banter between Shelton and Bryan, who are hosting the ACM Awards for a third year.

FIGHTING LIKE BROTHERS

When ACM Awards executive producer R.A. Clark said he thought for a second that the production at



Blake Shelton, right, and Luke Bryan, co-hosts of Sunday's 50th Academy of Country Music Awards, laugh during a news conference on the event at AT&T Stadium on Friday, April 17, 2015, in Arlington, Texas.

the AT&T Stadium looked like the MGM Grand Garden Arena, where the awards show is usually held, Shelton said: "In other words, you're just using Luke's normal production."

"I want something to go wrong today so I know something won't go wrong during the show," said Clark, son of the late Dick Clark.

"That will be Blake's rehearsal," Bryan replied.

Both stars are nominated for male vocalist of the year.

"We can duke it out right now," Bryan said when asked who should win.

"I'm going to take the high road here," Shelton said,

"and I say I do."

NO STAR LEFT BEHIND

Shelton doesn't hold back when he tells jokes, even if it's about Taylor Swift — one of the seven recipients of the 50th Anniversary Milestone Award.

"Being it's the 50th, it's cool we're going way back and we're honoring some of these artists that have been here like Taylor Swift and Miranda Lambert — digging way back," he said to laughs.

Other honorees include Garth Brooks, Kenny Chesney, George Strait, Reba McEntire and Brooks & Dunn.

"You're probably an icon

award guy, too, aren't you?" Shelton asked Bryan.

"No, you're too new."

Brooks, who made his return to music last year after a 13-year break, wasn't off-limits either.

When a reporter asked if the live performances would be available on iTunes, Shelton said: "I don't think so."

Don't forget Garth is on this thing, so no way." (Brooks' music isn't available digitally, and he recently launched his own service, GhostTunes, to access his music online.)

At the conference, they announced that the awards show will set a Guinness world record for most at-

tended live awards show ever. When Bryan asked if their picture with the new record would be in the Guinness book, Shelton replied: "It'll be Garth."

THE VOICE? MORE LIKE THE FACE

NBC's "The Voice" has helped Shelton reach superstar status and Bryan said his friend has changed as a result of his success in Hollywood.

"He's been getting some facials," he said. "He's hydrating early in the morning. He's exfoliating."

"I apologize for my tardiness," said Bryan,

who arrived a couple minutes after the press conference began. "It's a lot of work getting prepared to look better than Blake."

LET'S GET SERIOUS

Shelton didn't joke the entire time: He said one of his favorite ACM moments was seeing Bryan win the top prize in 2013.

"The coolest thing that I have witnessed ... was when Luke won entertainer of the year," he said.

"Not only did he not expect it, we both kind of expected Taylor (Swift) to win that ...

all of a sudden Luke won and I was as surprised and excited as he was. □

'Jane the Virgin,' John Oliver among Peabody Award winners

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Jane the Virgin" and John Oliver's satirical news show are among the winners in the first round of this year's Peabody Awards.

The Peabody panel deemed the CW sitcom "Jane the Virgin" a "smart, self-aware telenovela" and its star Gina Rodriguez "incandescent."

HBO's "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" is a "worthy addition to the news-as-comedy genre," and offers "fresh, feisty investigative reports," the panel said in announcing its entertainment awards this week.

Others winners include "The Americans"; "Fargo"; "The Honorable Woman"; "Inside Amy Schumer"; "The Knick"; "Rectify" and "Black Mirror," an English TV anthology of dark tales.

Individual and institutional Peabodys are being awarded to David Attenborough, the veteran British nature documentarian, and "Afropop Worldwide," a public radio series about African music and its international incarnations.

Peabody news and radio winners will be announced Monday, followed on Thursday by honorees in the

documentary, public service, education and children's programming areas. Winners will receive their statuettes May 31 in New York as the awards take a step toward glamor with its first red-carpet evening ceremony, hosted by Fred Armisen (whose "Portlandia" comedy is a past Peabody recipient). The ceremony will be featured in a Peabody special airing June 21 on Pivot.

The awards for the best in electronic media, in their 74th year, are decided by the board of the George Foster Peabody Awards at



In this Sunday, March 29, 2015, file photo, Gina Rodriguez arrives at the iHeartRadio Music Awards at The Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Actress Kate Mulgrew breaks with her past in new memoir

LAURI NEFF

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The biggest challenge for Kate Mulgrew in writing about giving up her daughter for adoption was getting beyond herself.

"I'm Irish. We're private people," says Mulgrew. "We keep it close to the vest. We keep it quiet. That's how I was raised."

But Mulgrew, who played Capt. Kathryn Janeway on "Star Trek: Voyager" and now plays Galina "Red" Reznikov on Netflix's "Orange is the New Black," says she has no regrets about what she calls the loss of privacy in telling that story and other personal highs and lows in her new book, "Born With Teeth: A Memoir" (Little, Brown and Co.).

"Without it I couldn't have shared what might be met by some people as a very important piece of information; not only the experience of it but how I survived and how I went on," says the Emmy-nominated actress.

The book, released this week, follows her life from growing up in an unconventional Irish-Catholic Iowa home to 1999, when

she was reunited with the daughter she gave up for adoption at age 22 — and reconnecting with her now-husband. Mulgrew says she ended the memoir there because she saw it as "the perfect resting point in happiness."

"I had found my daughter after 21 years of searching for her and the great love of my life, Tim Hagan, who had dropped out of my life for five years, came back into my life and both happened in the same week." She also writes about deciding to become an actress at age 12, with encouragement from her mother, after Mulgrew brought a group of nuns at her Catholic grammar school to tears with her reading of a 50-page poem about a World War I romance.

She recalls that her mother said to her afterward, "'You can either be a mediocre poet or a great actress. Now which do you think you'd rather be?' And that was the switch," Mulgrew says.

She shares painful moments as well, including the childhood deaths of two of her sisters, the breakup of her first marriage and the first sign that her mother



In this Sept. 15, 2014 file photo, actress Kate Mulgrew attends the "Netflix" launch party in Paris, France. Mulgrew released "Born with Teeth: A Memoir," on April 14.

Associated Press

was developing Alzheimer's disease.

She says when it got to be too much, she'd take a break.

"I'd stop writing. I'd go out to the beach and I'd sit on the sand and I'd cry for two hours, and I'd go back in and go on. That's what I think it is to write a memoir."

As for the title of the book, Mulgrew, 59, was born with teeth: two on the top and two on the bottom. She says, however, that it's also symbolic of how she's made her way in the world. Noting that she had just returned from a trip to Africa where she went on safari, Mulgrew said she observed

that the big cats there used their teeth to kill their prey quickly.

"They kill instantly because they're not interested in torture but they're interested in survival. They kill to eat and only when they're hungry and that's the metaphor. I used my teeth the same way." □

Spanish language 'Sabado Gigante' ends 53-year run

GISELA SALOMON

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Television's longest-running variety show is calling it a wrap after 53 years.

The Miami-based Univision network said Friday the popular "Sabado Gigante" will end its weekly broadcast on Sept. 19.

Created by its Chilean-born host, the boisterous presenter with a huge grin known as Don Francisco, the weekly three-hour show "Sabado Gigante" long has been Univision's most popular program.

With an average of 2.2 million viewers, the show remains No. 1 on Saturday nights among Hispanics in the U.S. and was up this season among younger viewers, according to the Nielson company. The

show also is broadcast to more than a dozen countries throughout Latin America.

Univision did not say why it was ending "Sabado Gigante," nor what kind of programming will fill its slot.



In this photo taken on Feb. 3, 2012, Chilean born host of the Univision network variety show "Sabado Gigante," Mario Kreutzberger, popularly known as Don Francisco, poses on the set of his show in Miami. Associated Press

The network said Don Francisco, whose real name is Mario Kreutzberger, will continue to work on special programs and a telethon that has raised hundreds of millions of dollars over the years to benefit disabled children.

The details of the decision will be revealed by Kreutzberger on the broadcast this Saturday, according to a network spokesperson who was not authorized to be quoted by name.

"Sabado Gigante," which means "Giant Saturday" in English, aired for the first time in Chile in 1962, and moved to Miami in 1986.

The variety show mixing humor, amateur talent contests, celebrity interviews and human-interest stories went on to become a weekly staple for many His-

panic families in the United States, sometimes with several generations gathered around the television set on Saturday evenings.

Guests have included Hispanic artists such as Enrique Iglesias, Shakira, Paulina Rubio and Gloria Trevi, and U.S. presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama. Latin American politicians also have appeared on the program.

In a release from the network, Alberto Ciurana, president of Programming and Content for Univision Communications, Inc., called the 74-year-old Kreutzberger "one of the most beloved and legendary entertainers in the world" and an "innovative and inspirational force in the television industry throughout his career." □

Grandmama Mia!



MAUREEN DOWD
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WASHINGTON - When my brother Michael was a Senate page, he delivered mail to John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon, who had offices across the hall from each other.

He recalled that Kennedy never looked up or acknowledged his presence, but Nixon would greet him with a huge smile. "Hi, Mike," he'd say. "How are you doing? How's the family?"

It seemed a bit counterintuitive, especially since my dad, a D.C. police inspector in charge of Senate security, was a huge Kennedy booster. (The two prominent pictures in our house were of the Mona Lisa and JFK.) But after puzzling over it, I finally decided that JFK had the sort of magnetism that could ensorcell big crowds, so he did not need to squander it on mail boys. Nixon, on the other hand, lacked large-scale magnetism, so he needed to work hard to charm people one by one, even mail boys.

Hillary Clinton has always tried to be more like the Democratic president she lived with in the White House, to figure out how he spins the magic. "I never realized how good Bill was at this until I tried to do it," she once told her adviser, Harold Ickes. But she ends up being compared with the Republican president she investigated as a young lawyer for the House Judiciary's Watergate investigation.

Her paranoia, secrecy, scandals and disappearing act with emails from her time as secretary of state have inspired a cascade of comparisons with Nixon.

Pat Buchanan, a former Nixon adviser, bluntly told Jason Zengerle recently in New York magazine: "She reminds me of Nixon," another pol who's more comfortable behind the scenes than grinding it out in the arena. As Hillary finally admits the axiomatic - she wants to be president - she will take the Nixon approach, trying to charm people one by one in the early states for 2016, an acknowledgment that she cannot emulate the wholesale allure of Bill Clinton or Barack Obama.

That reality hit her in 2008, when throngs waited hours to get in to hear The One. "Enough with the speeches and the big rallies," a frustrated Hillary cried out to a Cincinnati crowd.

She wants to avoid the coronation vibe this time, a member of her orbit told Politico's Glenn Thrush, even though Martin O'Malley, a potential rival, objected that "the presidency of the United States is not some crown to be passed between two families" and The Onion re-

ported her campaign slogan is "I deserve this."

Hillary's team plans to schedule low-key events where she can mingle with actual voters. "I think it's important, and Hillary does, too, that she go out there as if she's never run for anything before and establish her connection with the voters," Bill Clinton told Town & Country for a cover story.

The Big Dog, who got off his leash last time in South Carolina, said he will start small as well, noting: "My role should primarily be as a backstage adviser to her until we get much, much closer to the election."

Democratic strategists and advisers told The Washington Post's Anne Gearan and Dan Balz that "the go-slow, go-small strategy" plays to her strengths, "allowing her to meet voters in intimate settings where her humor, humility and policy expertise can show through."

As the old maxim goes, if you can fake humility, you've got it made. But seeing Rahm and Hillary do it in the same season might be too much to take.

Obama has said: "If she's her wonderful self, I'm sure she's going to do great." But which self is that? Instead of a chilly, scripted, entitled policy wonk, as in 2008, Hillary plans to be a warm, spontaneous, scrappy fighter for average Americans. Instead of a woman campaigning like a man, as in 2008, she will try to stir crowds with the idea of being the first woman president. Instead of haughtily blowing off the press, as in 2008, she will make an effort to play nice.

It's a do-or-die remodeling, like when you put a new stainless steel kitchen in a house that doesn't sell. In 1992, Clinton strategists wrote a memo aiming to recast Hillary in a skeptical public's mind as a warm, loving mother. They even suggested an event where Bill and Chelsea would surprise Hillary on Mother's Day. Now, after 25 years on the national stage, Hillary is still hitting the reset button on her image, this time projecting herself as a warm, loving grandmother.

On the eve of her campaign launch, she released an updated epilogue to her banal second memoir, "Hard Choices," highlighting her role as a grandmother. "I'm more convinced than ever that our future in the 21st century depends on our ability to ensure that a child born in the hills of Appalachia or the Mississippi Delta or the Rio Grande Valley grows up with the same shot at success that Charlotte will," she wrote, referring to her granddaughter. This was designed to rebut critics who say she's too close to Wall Street and too grabby with speech money and foundation donations from Arab autocrats to wage a sincere fight against income inequality.

But if Hillary really wants to help those children, maybe she should give them some of the ostensible and obscene \$2.5 billion that she is planning to spend to persuade us to make her grandmother of our country. □



It Takes a Party



PAUL KRUGMAN
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So Hillary Clinton is officially running, to nobody's surprise. And you know what's coming: endless attempts to psychoanalyze the candidate, endless attempts to read significance into what she says or doesn't say about President Barack Obama, endless thumb-sucking about her "positioning" on this or that issue. Please pay no attention. Personality-based political analysis is always a dubious venture - in my experience, pundits are terrible judges of character. Those old enough to remember the 2000 election may also remember how we were assured that George W. Bush was a nice, affable fellow who would pursue moderate, bipartisan policies. In any case, there has never been a time in U.S. history when the alleged personal traits of candidates mattered less. As we head into 2016, each party is quite unified on major policy issues - and these unified positions are very far from each other. The huge, substantive gulf between the parties will be reflected in the policy positions of whomever they nominate, and will almost surely be reflected in the actual policies adopted by whoever wins.

For example, any Democrat would, if elected, seek to maintain the basic U.S. social insurance programs - Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid - in essentially their current form, while

also preserving and extending the Affordable Care Act. Any Republican would seek to destroy Obamacare, make deep cuts in Medicaid, and probably try to convert Medicare into a voucher system.

Any Democrat would retain the tax hikes on high-income Americans that went into effect in 2013, and possibly seek more. Any Republican would try to cut taxes on the wealthy - House Republicans plan to vote next week to repeal the estate tax - while slashing programs that aid low-income families.

Any Democrat would try to preserve the 2010 financial reform, which has recently been looking much more effective than critics suggested.

Any Republican would seek to roll it back, eliminating both consumer protection and the extra regulation applied to large, "systemically important" financial institutions.

And any Democrat would try to move forward on climate policy, through executive action if necessary, while any Republican - whether or not he is an outright climate-science denialist - would block efforts to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

How did the parties get this far apart? Political scientists suggest that it has a lot to do with income inequality. As the wealthy grow richer compared with everyone else, their policy preferences have moved to the right - and they have pulled the Republican Party ever further in their direction. Meanwhile, the influence of big money on Democrats has at least eroded a bit, now that Wall Street, furious over regulations and modest tax hikes, has deserted the party en masse. The result is a level of political polarization not seen since the Civil War.

Now, some people won't want to acknowledge that the choices in the 2016 election are as stark as I've asserted. Political commen-

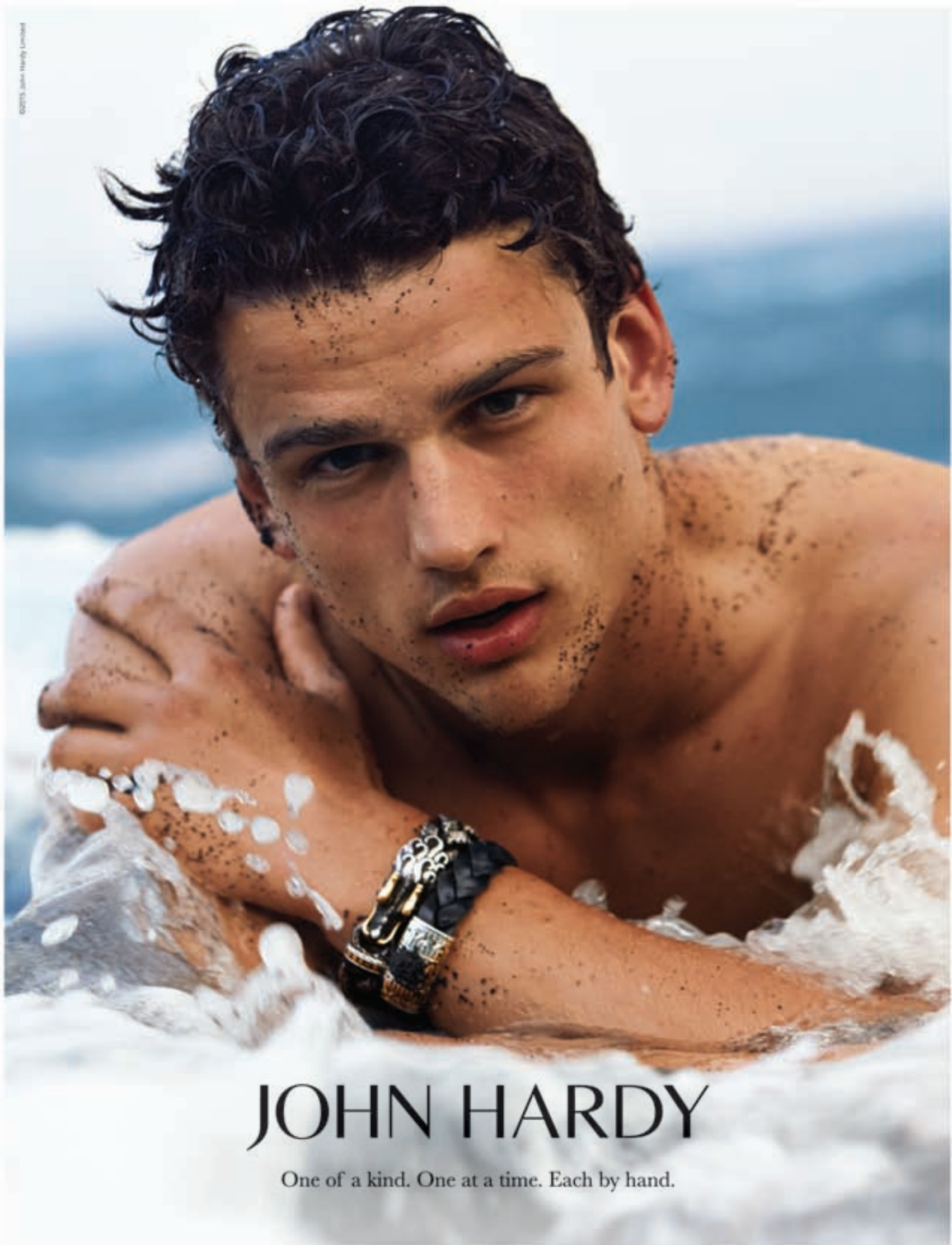
tators who specialize in covering personalities rather than issues will balk at the assertion that their alleged area of expertise matters not at all. Self-proclaimed centrists will look for a middle ground that doesn't actually exist. And as a result, we'll hear many assertions that the candidates don't really mean what they say. There will, however, be an asymmetry in the way this supposed gap between rhetoric and real views is presented.

On one side, suppose that Clinton is indeed the Democratic nominee. If so, you can be sure that she'll be accused, early and often, of insincerity, of not being the populist progressive she claims to be.

On the other side, suppose that the Republican nominee is a supposed moderate like Jeb Bush or Marco Rubio. In either case we'd be sure to hear many assertions from political pundits that the candidate doesn't believe a lot of what he says. But in their cases this alleged insincerity would be presented as a virtue, not a vice - sure, Bush is saying crazy things about health care and climate change, but he doesn't really mean it, and he'd be reasonable once in office. Just like his brother.

As you can probably tell, I'm dreading the next 18 months, which will be full of sound bites and fury, signifying nothing. OK, I guess we might learn a few things - Where will Clinton come out on trade agreements like the Trans-Pacific Partnership? How much influence will Republican Fed-bashers exert? - but the differences between the parties are so clear and dramatic that it's hard to see how anyone who has been paying attention could be undecided even now, or be induced to change his or her mind between now and the election. One thing is for sure: U.S. voters will be getting a real choice. May the best party win. □

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